















YALE  
AND  
HER HONOR-ROLL  
IN THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1775-1783

INCLUDING ORIGINAL LETTERS, RECORD OF SERVICE, AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

BY

*phelps*  
HENRY P. JOHNSTON



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## PREFACE.

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ANY one familiar with the personal history of the leaders of the Revolution must have remarked upon the large representation of college-bred men among them.

This was not only a suggestive fact in the experience of a provincial population, but in part explains the method and reasonableness of the revolutionary movement itself. No similar revolt in history was grounded less in bitterness and hate, or developed more naturally from discussion and conviction. As the public controversy—the issue in documentary form—turned upon the constitutional relation of the colonies to the mother country, it required a certain amount of general learning and familiarity with colonial history to engage in it intelligently. The question appealed to the educated and professional element, which included not only lawyers, ministers and orators, but many merchants as well whose disgust at England's restrictive commercial policy intensified their opposition. The speeches in assemblies and town-meetings, the sermons and pamphlets



on the issues of the day, the petitions and protests which British statesmen admired for their dignity and breadth of views, were in many, probably in most instances, the efforts and product of trained minds. The colleges of the day could count among their alumni such men as Otis, Warren, Hancock, the Adamses, Hawley, Trumbull, Wolcott, Jay, the Livingstons and Morrisses, Hopkinson, Rush, Jefferson, Harrison, Gerry, Wythe, Lyman Hall, and others whose names are interwoven with the history of that period. Their influence in the earlier and more important Congresses is indicated in the fact that very nearly one half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were graduates.

The colonist was proud of such leadership. It proved the wisdom of his policy in encouraging education, especially the higher education, from an early date. The nine colleges he had founded before the Revolution were : Harvard in 1636 ; William and Mary, 1693 ; Yale, 1701 ; Princeton, 1746 ; Columbia, 1754 ; University of Pennsylvania, 1755 ; Brown, 1765 ; Dartmouth, 1769 ; and Rutgers, 1770. The aggregate number of their alumni living at the outbreak of the war was about two thousand five hundred, which may be regarded as a fair proportion of the population in those colonies which supported the colleges ; and they had their full weight in the community, for in addition to those who took a dis-

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tinguished part in the larger political field, others became judges, legislators and governors, and filled many of the minor civil offices.

As a revolutionary soldier, the graduate is less familiar to us. That he made a notable record, however, is quite certain, and its revival would not only be a happy act of remembrance, but the material itself a valuable contribution to the personal history of those times. All the colleges were represented in the field, and in larger numbers than they are generally credited with. The four oldest in the list, having many more graduates and graduates of longer standing than the rest, were conspicuously represented.

There was something in the aim and courage of those alumni "Continentalists" we cannot very graciously forget. Not only could they shout as vigorously against the Stamp Act and talk of their rights as earnestly as any others, but they clearly foresaw that if the sword were once drawn, it would not be simply to decide the limit of ministerial or parliamentary authority, or even to establish their independence as the only remedy of their wrongs. It is remarkable how, after the fighting began, the colonists as a body lost sight of the original issue and dropped all thought of returning to their former allegiance. They were looking to the future. We may say that they fought in the line of destiny. What sustained them through the struggle was largely the inherited conviction that

though nominally or politically they were subjects of Great Britain, in another sense and in a more natural way they were the true proprietors of the soil and founders of new communities whose prospective as well as immediate interests it was their first duty to consult.

In the case of that portion of the revolutionary soldiery to which the writer's attention has been called in the present work, it may be stated that with few exceptions the graduates were descendants of families which came to this country before the year 1690. At the opening of the war they represented the fourth, fifth, and sixth generation from the first immigrant, and were members of what might be called the patrician element in colonial society. It was the element which instinctively considered itself entitled to the control of the continent, as against the mother country, in all matters of vital concern. The best men among them kept referring to the possibilities of the future as being theirs to mark out and develop; such men, for example, as Dr. Stiles, who both before and after he became President of Yale impressed this idea of destiny upon his hearers, or such men as Dr. Dwight, who when tutor at the college delivered an address to the students in 1776, in which he reminded them of the wide field and the great duties before them. "Remember," he said, "that you are to act for the empire of America, and for a long suc-

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cession of ages. . . . Your wishes, your designs, your labors are not to be confined by the narrow bounds of the present age, but are to comprehend succeeding generations." The graduate of '76 and men like him took up the sword for the new America. Deeply interested in the movement for himself, he also had a sense of the greatness his descendants would enjoy through his efforts, which in turn places us under a very real and personal obligation to him.

In the following pages I have ventured to compile this missing record, so far as Yale's part is concerned. An examination, at intervals of leisure, of manuscripts and printed material has been more or less successful, furnishing at least sufficient facts for something in the way of a memorial. The first part includes an outline of the operations in each year of the war, showing the situation wherever graduates were present, and in connection with which some original letters written by them from field and camp are inserted. In the second part will be found the Roll of Honor, or list of all known to have been engaged during the war, with biographical sketches added. Authorities and sources of information are indicated in foot-notes, and in an introductory note to the second part. I am under obligations to librarians and others for assistance, but especially to Prof. Franklin B. Dexter, Secretary of the University and Professor of American History, who has favored me with many data; Dr. Samuel

A. Green, Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Hon. Charles J. Hoadley, Librarian of the State Library, Hartford, Conn., and Mr. William Kelby, of the New York Historical Society Library.

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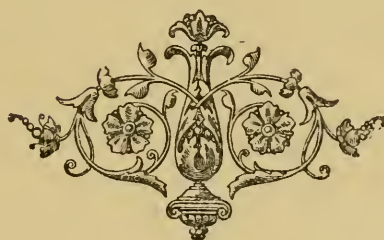
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## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ALUMNI IN 1775.

OF the nine hundred or more Yale graduates known to have been living in 1775, much the larger proportion, approximately two thirds, resided in the colony of Connecticut, the home of the college. The remainder were distributed throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey, with a limited number scattered at widely distant points north and south.

In Connecticut the college exerted an appreciable influence. Dr. Benjamin Trumbull recognizes this fact in his history of the colony, where he states that as early as 1743 the alumni constituted a "numerous and respectable" body, and adds, somewhat flatteringly, that not a few had become "pillars" and "stars of distinguished lustre" in both church and commonwealth; and this may be accepted as equally true in 1775, when the relative increase of graduates had very nearly kept pace with that of the population. It may be doubted, indeed, whether at any time, before or since, the college has filled so large a place in the eye of the community at home as during the period of the Revolution.



*Yale in the Revolution.*

The crisis itself would partially explain this, so far as it called upon men of acknowledged ability, integrity, and public spirit to engage in the management of affairs; for it happened that an exceptional number of the alumni then living throughout the principal towns were citizens of this stamp. Events gave them increased prominence. But a further explanation may be sought in the relation of the graduate to the society of the time, in which the professions as such had not assumed their modern importance. While the pulpit, it is true, was a power in itself, neither law nor medicine were the attractions then that they are to-day. Apart from the ministers who often attended the sick in their parishes, comparatively few graduates became physicians, devoting themselves exclusively to their calling; nor were many more lawyers, or regularly entered "bar-risters at law" as they were styled, as litigation appears not to have been as general or lucrative as in the period after the Revolution. College men, accordingly, more frequently than now, dropped into the active life of the community, sometimes combining business with a profession. They kept stores, cultivated farms, acted as agents, owned ships and traded along the coast and with the West Indies. The lay graduate of that day, being less the professional man than increasing wealth and diversity of interests have enabled him to become in later times, engaged in every honorable occupation, and wherever he established himself permanently he exercised a certain neighborhood influence, which, in numerous instances, is known to

have been neither slight nor transient. Sometimes he became the local dignitary as probate judge or colonel of militia, again as town clerk and justice of the peace, or, perhaps, more often than not, he was moderator of the town-meeting, or chief spokesman on town affairs. When, finally, the war came, his views and example had weight.

As illustrating the influence and distinction, accorded to the college element in the State, it may be noticed that while the honored governor, Jonathan Trumbull, was a graduate of Harvard, the house of "Assistants," a body of twelve eminent citizens elected at large, contained in 1775 eight Yale graduates. The secretary of state, one of the five superior court judges, all the county court and many of the probate judges were also graduates. So also were several of the prominent members of the General Assembly, frequently the Speaker, nearly one half the field officers of the militia for 1774-75, a majority of the important State revolutionary Council of Safety, and six of the twelve members who at different times, from 1775 to 1783, attended the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. At the beginning of the struggle graduates took the lead in the principal town and county war meetings, in some cases presiding over them, as at New Haven, Hartford, New London, Norwich, Windham, and Lyme, and in other cases acting on the committees of correspondence; while during the progress of the contest it is to be remarked how frequently they figured on legislative committees charged with the active and responsible duties of the hour.

In Massachusetts, the Yale representation, was to

be found mainly in the central and western parts of the State, in Hampshire and Berkshire counties, in the towns of Springfield, Westfield, Pittsfield, Northampton, Stockbridge, Lenox, and neighboring places. The tide of emigration, or removals, had been setting in that direction for some years before the Revolution, and graduates, with others, sought the advantages of new localities. Several of the Ashleys and the Williamses named in the triennial catalogue lived in that section, as well as Hawley, Hopkins, Brown, Dickinson, Sedgwick, and Paterson, who will reappear in the military record. Including the few who resided in Eastern Massachusetts there were at that time not far from one hundred and seventy of the alumni in the State. The great majority of these were in the fullest sympathy with the course of events, and some, like Joseph Hawley, of whom further mention must be made, proved towers of strength. Their influence in Berkshire was not inconsiderable if one may judge from the fact that at the important county convention held in July, 1774, for the declaration of views on the crisis, the chairman, secretary, and three of the five members of the committee to draft the resolutions, were graduates. What is more, they followed up their patriotic expressions with active service in the field.

In Rhode Island the number of graduates at that period was small, probably not more than twenty, three or four of whom entered the military service. Three attained some distinction at home in earlier years or during the war as deputy-governors, namely, Darius Sessions, Paul Mumford and Jabez Bowen.

Of the soldiers two were colonels. The most prominent graduates there in 1775 were Hon. Joshua Babcock, formerly Chief-Justice of Rhode Island, and Rev. Dr. Ezra Stiles, Congregational pastor at Newport, who was to become president of Yale in 1778.

In New York we meet with some names that are closely identified with the history of the colony and the State. Our earliest graduate here, and the earliest lay graduate from any college, was William Smith, of the class of 1719, who became the first of the many distinguished lawyers who have adorned the bar of New York City from that day to this. By his contemporaries he is described as a man of profound learning, unimpeachable character and "the most eloquent speaker in the province." At the time of his death in 1769 he was one of the judges of the supreme court. That he kept up a warm interest in the college would appear from the statement made by his son, Judge William Smith, of the class of 1745, the historian, that it was upon his recommendation that Philip Livingston, the second proprietor of the manor on the Hudson by his name, was induced to send his sons to the "Academy" at New Haven. These four Livingston brothers, Peter Van Brugh, John, Philip, and William, with some others, continued the succession of Yale graduates in the city down to the war. The first three became merchants, the last a lawyer. Peter was president and treasurer of the first New York Provincial Congress. Philip and William were sent as delegates to the Continental Congress. Philip signed the Declaration of Independence, and William, moving into New

Jersey, became the "war governor" of that State. Richard and Lewis Morris, John Sloss Hobart, and Ezra L'Hommedieu went to Congress or became judges. Another name is that of John Morin Scott, an eminent advocate, who threw himself heartily into the cause. Chancellor Kent, who was to keep up the college representation in legal circles in New York after the war, speaks of him as "one of that band of deep-read and thorough lawyers of the old school, who were an ornament to the city at the commencement of the Revolution." In all there were about seventy graduates in the State in 1775, most of whom lived in the city or on Long Island. As a body they suffered from the war more than any others. Philip Livingston, Lewis Morris, and Scott, were nearly ruined—their fine mansions and estates, in or near the city, being confiscated and despoiled by the enemy. The house of Dr. John A. Graham, class of 1768, was burned by the British after the battle at White Plains. Some were fugitives from their homes during the entire contest; and some were Tories who will be briefly noticed in the operations of 1779.

In New Jersey we had about twenty graduates, several of whom were settled pastors. Three or four of the younger alumni were prospecting in Wyoming Valley, Westmoreland County, Penn., which Connecticut then claimed as her territory. Others were to be found in the tracts which afterwards became the States of New Hampshire and Vermont. Lyman Hall, the "Signer," had made his home in Liberty County, Georgia. Very few, if any, were then living in either Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, or the Carolinas.



The college in 1775 numbered one hundred and sixty-four students, who graduated with their respective classes. Rev. Dr. Naphtali Daggett was President and Professor of Divinity; Rev. Nehemiah Strong, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Timothy Dwight, Joseph Buckminster, Abraham Baldwin, and John Lewis were Tutors, the first three of whom subsequently became chaplains in the army. Three buildings were then standing on the grounds, two of which remain to-day—old South Middle and the Athenæum, which served both as a chapel and a library.

These graduates and students, we may repeat, were typical colonists. Barring the few who were either avowed loyalists or assumed a neutral attitude where they could, they belonged to the class which formed the soul of the Revolution. Most of them doubtless felt with Dr. Stiles in July, 1774, that: "If oppression proceeds, despotism may force an annual Congress; and a public spirit of enterprise may originate an American Magna Charta and Bill of Rights, supported by such intrepid and persevering importunity as even sovereignty may hereafter judge it not wise to withstand. THERE WILL BE A RUNNYMEDE IN AMERICA."





## EVENTS IN 1775-76.

The Alarm at the College—Young Huntington—Chipman's Epic—Washington and the Students' Company—Noah Webster—Graduates in the General Uprising—Bunker Hill—Letters from Chester, Grosvenor, Sherman—Dr. Stiles in Camp—Ticonderoga and Quebec—Wooster, Brown, Coit, Babcock—Boston Evacuated—Col. Gay.

TURNING first to the college, when the war opened, we are quite prepared to find that little community as deeply agitated as any other, and responding as quickly to the popular sympathies. There is this reference to the situation in the journal of one of the students, which expresses much :

"Friday, April 21,——. To-day tidings of the battle of Lexington, which is the first engagement with the British troops, arrived at New Haven. This filled the country with alarm and rendered it impossible for us to pursue our studies to any profit."

The student was Ebenezer Fitch, of the Sophomore class, who was to become the first president of Williams College. It is fortunate for our purposes that his journal has been preserved, as the extract quoted appears to be, with an item in the diary of President Stiles, the only contemporary record we have of the effect produced by the Lexington news at Yale. And startling news it was, no doubt. One may readily picture the scene of excitement around the old halls that evening as the students and townsmen alike dwelt upon the details of the encounter and canvassed the probability of having a war at their very



doors. What shows that they were all profoundly moved, is the fact that on the next day class exercises were suspended and college "broke up." The studious Fitch himself could not keep to his books, but went home to Canterbury, and soon after visited the camps then forming around Boston. It was not until June 1st that he returned to college.<sup>1</sup> So too, Ezra Stiles, of the same class, surprised his father at Newport, by arriving on the 26th with word that the students were dispersing.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, with drums beating, rumors flying, and serious speculation going on over the consequences of a general conflict with the mother country, there could be little attentive studying for a time. It was something more than an ephemeral excitement or interruption. Three or four of the students, as tradition goes, closed their studies at once and fell into the line of volunteers marching northward. It is certain that Ebenezer Huntington of the Senior class was one. His father, the Hon. Jabez Huntington, of the class of 1741, then a member of the Upper House of Connecticut, and his elder brother, Jedidiah, graduate of Harvard, and afterwards general in the Continental army, had both stepped forward unhesitatingly in the earlier stages of the crisis, which may go to explain young Ebenezer's enthusiasm. The tradition in his case, sufficiently supported by the record, is to the effect that failing to obtain permission from the college authorities to

<sup>1</sup> From the diary in "Sketch of the late Rev. Ebenezer Fitch, D.D.," by Rev. Calvin Durfee, Boston, 1865.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Stiles, in his diary for April 26, 1775, Newport: "About sunset Ezra arrived from Yale College, which broke up last Saturday. The news of Lexington reached New Haven on Friday night."

leave immediately, he decamped that Friday night with some of his companions, went to Wethersfield, and then pushed on to the front at Boston, where he found his brother before him. His own home was at Norwich, but at Wethersfield lived his brother-in-law, John Chester, class of 1766, captain of an alarm company, and of whom we shall presently hear again, which would account for his hurrying directly to that town. While the faculty were evidently displeased at this breach of discipline, they could not but have quietly admired his prompt decision in the case, especially when we recall that the patriotic Daggett was then president, and at the graduation of his class they gave him his diploma; so that Huntington's name appears both upon the college catalogue and upon the roster of those officers who served uninterruptedly and with honor from the beginning to the close of the war.

The names of the other irrepressible students, who are said to have been Huntington's companions in his flight, do not appear. That class of '75 furnished some fine young officers for the army, several of whom began their service on graduation. Belden, Bushnell, Daggett, Judson, Mix, Morris, Peck, Sill, and Welles became old campaigners, and it is possible that one or more of them left with Huntington in April, and then returned to graduate in regular course. Daniel Lyman, of the Junior class, may also have been among the number, as, according to recollections in his family, he joined the expedition against Ticonderoga, in May, and was engaged in the surprise of that important fortress. But in those first

days of alarm and muster we will remember all the students—the great body of them, certainly—as spirited and true, without distinction. If preference is to be given to any one of them, as being bolder than the rest, it should be perhaps to the Sophomore, Nathaniel Chipman, Vermont's future Chief-Justice, who dared to fan the flame of resistance by writing some martial poetry, and publishing it in the town newspaper. An extract from it must have a place here :

“ America, where freedom held her reign,  
Now first is doomed to wear the galling chain.  
Oppressed, she groans beneath a lawless power,  
And quakes to hear the gathering tempest roar.  
Rise ! sons of freedom ! close the glorious fight,  
Stand for religion, for your country's right.  
Resist the tyrant, disappoint his hopes,  
Fear not his navies, or his veteran troops.  
Think on those heroes who resigned their breath  
To tools of tyrants, ministers of death,  
Who firm, the rage of tyranny withstood,  
And seal'd the cause of liberty with blood.  
Let their example patriot zeal inspire,  
And every breast with martial ardor fire.  
O Heaven ! be gracious ; save our sinking land,  
Crush our proud foes with thine avenging hand.”<sup>1</sup>

By the first of June, the students had generally returned to the college, their war spirit evidently still high. One of their number, Abiathar Camp, showing Tory proclivities, was made the subject of a class meeting, and denounced as an “ enemy to his country,” which meant that all social intercourse with him was to be withheld. Meantime many of them fell to

<sup>1</sup> “ Life of Hon. Nathaniel Chipman, LL.D.,” Boston, 1846.

drilling. A company was organized, either then or at an earlier date, which soon attracted attention by its military bearing. Who the members or who the officers were we do not know, but either among the drummers or fifers one would have seen, upon his own statement, a Freshman by the name of Noah Webster. Stout young Whigs, as nearly all these collegians were, and not a few of them the sons of public leaders in the colony, they seem to have anticipated a protracted struggle and the necessity of their own participation in it at no distant day. It requires no effort of the imagination to picture them, dressed in the long coat of the period, knee breeches, and cocked hats, and armed with weighty flint-lock muskets, marching up and down the campus with the air of veterans and a buoyant confidence that they could at least defend that favored spot against the king's minions.

One event soon occurred which must have been long remembered, and perhaps settled the course of some of the graduating class who may have wavered as to their duty to join the army. This was Washington's presence in the town, June 28th, for the first time as the American Commander-in-Chief, when the college company and the two local companies turned out to do him the honors of the occasion. The New Haven journal of the day, noticing the troops and the throng of people who were out, mentions in particular "a company of young gentlemen belonging to the seminary in this place, who made a handsome appearance, and whose expertness in the military exercises gained them the approbation of the generals"; but a

more satisfactory account is the following, which Noah Webster himself gave some years later in an address before a gathering of young people :

“In the year 1775 General Washington passed through New Haven on his way to Cambridge in Massachusetts, to take command of the American army. He was accompanied by General Charles Lee, who had been an officer in the British service. These gentlemen lodged in New Haven at the house of the late Isaac Beers, and in the morning they were invited to see a military company of students of Yale College perform their manual exercises. They expressed their surprise and gratification at the precision with which the students performed the customary exercises then in use. This company then escorted the generals as far as Neck Bridge ; and this was the first instance of that honor conferred on General Washington in New England. It fell to my humble lot to lead this company with music. I was then a Freshman in Yale College.”<sup>1</sup>

The day's incidents proved a pleasant reminiscence for both town and college, and doubtless for Washington, but the impression upon his memory would have been more vivid could he have then known that of the youthful students whom he saw that morning, more than forty were, sooner or later, to join his Continentals, and most of them pass with him through all the varied experiences of the war.

Of the college company we hear occasionally after this. At a New Haven town meeting, held November 5, 1775, it was voted “That the Governor be desired to permit one hundred stands of arms to be lodged in the library for the use of a company in Yale College” ; and again, “That should a company in college be formed and accoutred, they draw half a

<sup>1</sup> From the original MSS. in possession of Paul L. Ford, Brooklyn, L. I. The Beers' house stood on the site of the present New Haven House.



pound of powder to each man." This action would indicate that the company which Washington reviewed had broken up in the fall, owing probably to the graduation of the class of 1775; but as New Haven was an exposed place, some sort of an organization was kept up, and in 1779 the students will be heard from again.

Beyond the college, there was the general uprising. The Lexington alarm prompted a spontaneous march of trainbands and volunteers from all points to the help of the Massachusetts people. "Our neighboring towns," writes some one, "are arming and moving. Men of the first character and property shoulder their arms and march off for the field of action." College graduates were among them, and in respectable numbers,—the number increasing during the summer and fall as war became an accepted fact. Of the Yale alumni, John Paterson, class of 1762, was very early at the front. He lived at Lenox, Mass., was a member of the provincial Congress, then temporarily adjourned, and commanded a regiment of Berkshire County militia. The alarm reached Lenox on the evening of the 20th, and early the next morning the regiment was on the march. It took post about a mile and a half beyond Cambridge, and threw up one of the first redoubts on the line which was to turn Boston into a besieged town. Moses Ashley, class of 1767, was an ensign in the same regiment; and Rev. David Avery, class of 1769, chaplain. Another militia regiment of Worcester and Hampshire County men, stationed at Roxbury, was commanded by Col. Timothy Danielson, of the class



of 1756. When the alarm reached Wethersfield, Conn., John Chester, class of 1766, already mentioned, started off at the head of a fine company of one hundred young men, equipped by the town with twenty days' provision and sixty-four rounds of ammunition each. From New Haven, Jesse Leavenworth, class of 1759, went as lieutenant of volunteers, under Benedict Arnold. Jabez Hamlin, class of 1769, was ensign of Captain Meigs' Middletown train-band. Isaac Sherman, class of 1770, son of Roger Sherman, the "Signer," commanded a Massachusetts company. Ebenezer Moseley, class of 1763, led a company formed of "the Gentlemen Inhabitants of Canada Society, in Windham County, Conn., to the number of sixty able-bodied, effective men," who engaged "immediately to equip themselves with arms and warlike stores, and be in readiness to march against and oppose any enemy that may attempt the destruction of our lawful rights."

Presently, as better organization became necessary, we get more complete records and more names. Connecticut raised several regiments to serve for the year at different points. David Wooster, of the class of 1738, a name closely associated with New Haven in Wooster Street and Wooster Square, and more closely associated with the names of revolutionary heroes in his brave death in 1777, was made a general of militia with a regiment also under his personal command. During the summer of 1775 he was posted at and near New York, where upon his arrival he was entertained by the City Military Club with a public dinner. In June Congress made him a Con-

tinental brigadier, and in September he joined the Northern Department, where he had served in the French and Indian War. Among graduates in his command were Lieut. Jesse Leavenworth, who had returned from Massachusetts, Lieut. Robert Walker, James Lockwood, Chaplains Cotton Mather Smith and Benjamin Trumbull, and Surgeons Jared Potter and Samuel Whiting. The greater part of the Connecticut troops, however, were sent to the Boston lines, where before the close of the siege in March, 1776, there might have been found, in addition to the officers already mentioned, such others as Colonel Samuel Wyllys; Lieut.-Colonels Experience Storrs and Fisher Gay; Brigade-Major John Palsgrave Wyllys; Captains William Coit, William Hull, Nathan Hale, the "Martyr Spy," Ebenezer Craft, and Theophilus Munson; Lieutenants Thomas Grosvenor, Andrew Hillyer, Richard Sill, Ebenezer Huntington, Simeon Newell, Ebenezer Gray, William Peck, John Elderkin, Enoch and Joshua Lamb Woodbridge; Ensigns Jonathan Heart and Ezra Selden; Chaplains John Cleaveland, Benjamin Boardman, Stephen Johnson, Oliver Noble, and William Plumbe; and Surgeon Josiah Hart. Three graduates from Rhode Island were Colonels Daniel Hitchcock and Henry Babcock, and Lieut.-Colonel James Babcock. This list is necessarily incomplete, as the rolls of several regiments and companies which encamped around Boston at different times during the siege do not exist; but there cannot be many names missing. The college may be said to have been represented by fifty-five or more graduates at Boston and other points in the operations of the year 1775.

After Lexington, the signal events of the year were the capture of Ticonderoga, the battle of Bunker Hill, and the attempt upon Quebec. Bunker Hill claims attention first as the natural conclusion of Lexington. It was towards Boston that the New England provincials hurried to prevent the repetition of incursions, and they hemmed the British in by blockading the highways and fortifying the country around. On the night of June 16th, Putnam and Prescott pushed matters to an issue by fortifying the hill above Charlestown, and on the following day, the 17th, occurred the historic battle. The American line of defence consisted of a redoubt on the hill, with breastworks, barricades, and a post-and-rail fence on the left.

Six or more of our graduates took part in this battle, all of them belonging to the Connecticut detachment, which is credited with particularly good conduct on that day. They were Captains John Chester, William Coit, and Ebenezer Mosely, Lieutenants Thomas Grosvenor and (probably) Ebenezer Gray, and Jonathan Heart, whom tradition puts there as a private soldier. Their position was at the breastwork and rail-fence, where, as all accounts agree, a stout resistance was made. It was a good test of their resolution and their nerves—to face the disciplined redcoats as they moved up the hill in deep lines,—and all the provincials concerned were justly praised for fighting so well before retreating. Lieutenant Grosvenor was slightly wounded and lost about one third of his soldiers. Captain Coit, whose company was composed largely of New London sailors, is

described as being in "stature and intrepidity," next to McClary, the herculean major of Stark's New Hampshire men, who was killed in the action. Captain Chester and his company did not reach the hill till late, but they went into the fight at once and took their places behind the fence, where every man, as Chester says, loaded and fired as fast as he could. The hill and the earthworks fell to the enemy, but the battle belonged to the provincials. It was also a valuable experience for our soldiers, and we shall hear from them all again. Grosvenor, Gray, and Heart, for instance, fought through the war and rose to the rank of field-officers.

There was much to be done after the battle to secure the retreat and prevent the enemy from pursuing beyond Charlestown Neck into the open country. Lieut.-Colonel Storrs, of Putnam's regiment, was up nearly all night with his men working on a redoubt to command the Neck road. Colonel Paterson's regiment with others stood under arms to defend Cambridge. All were alert; but the enemy had suffered too heavily to make any further demonstration. Then came letters, accounts, and affidavits respecting the battle, many of which long since found their way into print, but they have their interest, and for the present record some things the graduates said will bear repeating. Chester's letter for one, fresh from the scene, dated Camp at Cambridge, July 22, 1775, is as follows, the last part unfortunately lost:

" . . . Just after dinner, on Saturday, 17th ult., I was walking out from my lodgings, quite calm and composed, and all at once the drums beat to arms, and bells rang, and a great

noise in Cambridge. Capt. Putnam came by on full gallop. What is the matter? says I. Have you not heard? No. Why, the regulars are landing at Charlestown, says he; and father [Gen. Putnam] says you must all meet, and march immediately to Bunker Hill to oppose the enemy. I waited not, but ran, and got my arms and ammunition, and hasted to my company (who were in the church for barracks), and found them nearly ready to march. We soon marched, with our frocks and trousers on over our other clothes (for our company is in uniform wholly blue, turned up with red), for we were loath to expose ourselves by our dress; and down we marched. I imagined we arrived at the hill near the close of the battle. . . . We were very soon in the heat of action. Before we reached the summit of Bunker Hill, and while we were going over the Neck, we were in imminent danger from the cannon shot, which buzzed around us like hail. The musquetry began before we passed the Neck, and when we were on the top of the hill and during our descent to the foot of it on the south, the small as well as cannon shot were incessantly whistling by us. We joined our army on the right of the centre, just by a poor stone fence, two or three feet high, and very thin, so that the bullets came through. Here we lost our regularity, as every company had done before us, and fought as they did, every man loading and firing as fast as he could. As near as I could guess we fought standing about six minutes.”<sup>1</sup>

Grosvenor describes what he saw of the fight as follows :

“ Our detachment, in advancing to the post, took up one rail-fence and placed it against another (as a partial cover), nearly parallel with the line of the breast-work, and extended our left nearly to Mystic-river. Each man was furnished with one pound of gunpowder and forty-eight balls. . . . In this position our detachment remained, until a second Division of British

<sup>1</sup> From Frothingham's "Siege of Boston." Chester's lieutenant, Samuel B. Webb, of Wethersfield, afterwards aid to Washington and colonel in the Continental army, wrote about the same time: "For my part, I confess, when I was descending into the valley, from off Bunker Hill, side by side of Captain Chester, at the head of our company, I had no more thought of ever rising the hill again than I had of ascending to Heaven, as Elijah did, soul and body together."



troops landed, when they commenced a fire of their field-artillery of several rounds, and particularly against the rail-fence ; then formed in columns, advanced to the attack, displayed in line at about the distance of musket-shot, and commenced firing. At this instant, our whole line opened upon the enemy ; and so precise and fatal was our fire, that in the course of a short time, they gave way and retired in disorder out of musket shot, leaving before us many killed and wounded. There was but a short respite on the part of the British, as their lines were soon filled up and led against us, when they were met as before, and forced back with great loss. On reinforcements joining the enemy, they made a direct advance on the redoubt ; and being successful, which our brave Captain Knowlton perceiving, ordered a retreat of his men, in which he was sustained by two companies under the command of Captains Clark and Chester. The loss in our detachment, I presume, was nearly equal. Of my own immediate command of thirty men and one subaltern, there were eleven killed and wounded ; among the latter was myself, though not so severely as to prevent my retiring.”<sup>1</sup>

Lieut.-Colonel Storrs had been on the hill early in the day, but returned to the command of that part of Putnam’s regiment still in camp. On the landing of the regulars at Charlestown, he was ordered to one of the forts near Cambridge. In his brief diary, still preserved, he goes on to say, on the 17th :

“ . . . No enemy appearing—orders soon came that our People at the Intrenchment were retreating and for us to secure y<sup>e</sup> retreat. Immediately marched for their relief. The Regulars did not come off from Bunker’s Hill but have taken possession of the Intrenchments and our People make a Stand on Winter Hill and we immediately went to entrenching. Flung up by morning an entrenchment about 100 feet square. Done principally by our Regiment under Putnam’s direction. Had but little sleep the night. . . . The action was rather precipitate—the entrenchment exposed to the fire of all y<sup>e</sup> ships and in a place

<sup>1</sup> From the *Portfolio*, March, 1818.



where the enemy landed their men under y<sup>e</sup> cover of the cannon from the ships, and the Post not sufficiently guarded. They forced the entrenchment without much difficulty.

“26<sup>th</sup>. We hear a Chief Officer is appointed—a Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington of Virginia to supercede in the command of y<sup>e</sup> Troops here.”<sup>1</sup>

Bunker Hill was followed by the siege of Boston, which dragged on into the following March. During the fall and winter the soldiers received visits from their friends, and good things from home. In fact, they were too near their homes, and many stole away for a few days, or left altogether, much to the disgust of officers who were trying to enforce discipline. Chester speaks of this in one of his letters: “The country,” he says, “must support his Excellency and the army in this matter, and exert themselves in detecting and bringing to punishment all offenders. If a firm stand is not now made, we shall never have an army worth a fig.” At the same time he was not averse to comforts himself, and on August 28<sup>th</sup> writes, to our amusement: “I cannot yet live to my mind. Our provision is not a fifth part so good as when we lived from our own colony store. I care not how much of a Continental war it is, but I pray for Connecticut provisions. . . . Half the time no sauce, no milk. . . . The Congress allow no butter, chocolate, or coffe, or sugar, which our colony allowed us.” The pork, “thin, poor, flashy stuff.”

“I ’ll tell you,” Chester goes on to say, “how I intend to work the matter to Live Better. Brother Jed. Huntington, the Colonel, is stationed very near our Regiment. Jno. Trumbull is lately made Major of our Brigade, & is back again with us at Roxbury.

<sup>1</sup> A portion of the diary of Colonel Storrs, some letters from Captain Chester, and Colonel Gay’s brief journal were published by the writer in the *Magazine of American History*, vol. for 1882. Further extracts are given.

Stephen Thayer is sutler for Huntington's Reg<sup>t</sup>. Park, a young Gentleman from Philadelphia, is Deputy Qua<sup>r</sup> Mas<sup>r</sup> under Mifflin, who is Q<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> or Barrack Master Gen<sup>l</sup>. As Mifflin is at Cambridge, Mr. Park is on our wing of the army. We five propose to hire a Room, Kitchen, and Chamber in a House at the foot of the Hill where we are encamp<sup>d</sup>, and hire a woman to wash and cook for us. My Lieut. will be allowed to join us, if he is a clever fellow ; & if he is not so he shall not be in our company. Here we intend to Live Genteely with our waiters, and Lodge in Tents." <sup>1</sup>

Chester was a good soldier—not the first one to believe in camp luxuries—and his new lieutenant, who joined the mess, was to become another in the person of Ebenezer Huntington. The latter had served as a volunteer up to September, when he was regularly appointed in Chester's company.

The Boston encampment was a novelty for New England, and many persons visited it, some from curiosity, others on business. Among the number was one of our oldest graduates, and the oldest who was actively concerned in war preparations—the Hon. Joshua Babcock, class of 1724, of Westerly, R. I. He was introduced to Washington by letter from Gov. Cooke, of that State, as a gentleman who had "highly distinguished himself in the glorious cause in which America is embarked." Another was Rev. Dr. Stiles, than whom there was no warmer supporter of the revolutionary movement, and the full diary he kept of the events of the war, now preserved in the Library, shows how constant his interest remained throughout. An extract from this diary, giving an account of his visit to camp, comes in place here. Under date of September 11, 1775, upon his return to Newport, he writes :

<sup>1</sup> Chester to Mr Burrall, August 28, 1775. From the original, in possession of the late Rev. Dr. John Chester, Washington, D. C.

"Last Monday I set out for camp, & arrived there on Wednesday, 6th inst. I dined that day at Watertown with President Langdon [of Harvard], who told me the Corporation had that day met there, & voted that the students should be called together & academic exercises be set up at Concord. Here I saw my uncle Eldad Taylor, Esq., one of the new elected Councillors. After dinner I rode to Head Quarters at Cambridge, visited General Putnam, took a cursory view of the encampments, & lodged at Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Farell's, Aet. seventy-two, of Medford, so as to be without the camp. Next morn<sup>g</sup> Rev. Mr. McLintock, Chaplain of New Hampshire Forces, introduced me to Gen. Sullivan, and carried me thro the encamp<sup>ts</sup> on Winter Hill, Prospect Hill, & on the E. of Cambridge—that is, the encamp<sup>t</sup> of the Left Wing, & Center of the Army. The works are astonishing! The Lines are done with a sufficient degree of Elegance, but their *Strength* & the *Quantity* of Line & Fortific<sup>a</sup> are amazing, considered as the work of one Summer only. The whole army is in 3 divisions of two Brigades each. A brigade is 6 Reg<sup>ts</sup> of 10 companies each; & each comp<sup>a</sup> 60 Men. So a Brigade 3600, if full, & a Division about 7000. The 3 divisions are 22000. There are some Boys and others worthless Fellows; but these, with the sick & unfit for duty, & Absentees on Furlough were estimated to me far short of one Quarter of the Army. The Man-Boys are equal to men in general for Duty, especially in an engagement. The rest of the Army were robust, hardy, brave Men, the Flower of N. Engld. So that they told me it might be relied upon that they had sixteen Thousd. healthy, rugged, courageous, invincible Troops, fit for Action & Enterprize. These are enough. The Arrangement is: the right wing at Roxbury and Dorchester, 2 Brigades, 7000; the left wing at Prospect, Winter & Plow'd Hills, 7000; the Center at Cambridge, 7000. The Generals command thus:

R. Wing, Roxby.

Major-Gen. Ward,  
B.-Gen. Thomas,  
B.-Gen. Spencer.

Centre.

His Excell<sup>y</sup> Gen. Washington,  
Major-Gen. Putnam,  
B.-Gen. Heath.

Left Wing, 3 Hills.

Major-Gen. Lee,  
B.-Gen. Sullivan,  
B.-Gen. Greene.

"The Tents begin on Winter Hill, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile from Mystic Bridge, & so extend all along round to the mouth of Cambridge River. I began the Inspection upon Winter Hill. Here is the largest Fortress in the Army; one side of it is above one hundred Rods. In a Valley between Winter and prospect Hills is Gen. Lee's House; we went to it, but he was gone on plow'd Hill, so I missed seeing him. Then we proceeded to Prospect Hill, went into Major Sherburn's marquiss Tent. The Major was appointed to Duty, & Col. Hitchcock was so obliging as to carry me thro' the Lines. The works are of astonishing Strength. Thence we proceeded & viewed the encamp<sup>ts</sup> of the Central Division at Cambridge, and dined at Gen. Putnam's. In the Afternoon, Mr. Leonard carried me to Col. Trumbull's, who provides for the Army. There I saw Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Blair (formerly Pastor of the Old S<sup>o</sup> in B<sup>o</sup>), now Chaplain to the Rifle Men, 800. Then we waited upon his Excellency General Washington, who received us very politely, & invited me to dinner. I was also introduced to Gen. Heath & Adjutant Gen. Gates, a martial man. After visiting College, now converted into Barracks, we went to the Meetinghouse at VI o'Clock. Here I prayed with the Central Brigade, and lodged at Gen. Putnam's with Mr. Leonard; spent the Evening in Company with the General and Gen. Wash<sup>s</sup> Aide de Camp, Mr. Randolph, & sundry other Gentlemen very agreeably.

"In the Morning of the 8th ins<sup>t</sup> I rode over to Roxbury, & passed Major Gen. Ward's House before I knew it. I breakfasted at Gen. Spencers. Then Rev. Mr. Johnson & Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Boardman, two of the Connecticut Chaplains, walked with me & shewed me all the Lines in the 3d Division, or Right wing, under the Command of Gen. Ward. They introduced me to Gen. Thomas also where we sat & conversed some time very agreeably. Then about XI o'Clock I took Leave & set out for home."

In this connection, also, is inserted a personal letter from Captain Isaac Sherman to his father in Congress at Philadelphia. It is one of a very few known to exist written by this officer, who subsequently became quite distinguished in the Continental army.

He was at this time captain in Gerrish's, afterwards Baldwin's, Massachusetts regiment :

“ BROOKLINE FORT, AT SEWALL'S POINT, September 8, 1775.

“ HON<sup>RD</sup> SIR :—I received your letter dated August 21st, which is the only one received since that favored by Col. Folsom. It gives me great pleasure to hear that my friends are in a good state of health. Mr. Dagget's stay was so very short that I could not possibly have wrote,—he told me you would set out for Philadelphia before his return.

“ I was appointed by the Mass<sup>ts</sup> Province. Business of almost every kind was entirely stagnated in this Province by reason of the Publick difficulties, which rendered it almost impossible to obtain any employment sufficient to procure a maintenance, was an inducement for me to enter the army : but far from being the only one. The goodness of the Cause, a desire of being a useful Member of society and of serving my Country, a thirst for glory, real glory, were the grand incentives. I hope by the assistance of the Deity I shall be enabled to serve every useful end,—never to reflect dishonor upon the Family or myself. The distance being so great, the necessity of being Expeditious in recruiting, rendered it almost impossible to have consulted with you on the affair. I am so far from thinking the advice of the experienced disadvantageous to youth that I apprehend it to be incumbent duty of young Men to consult and advise with those who are acquainted with the various manœuvres of Mankind, and especially with a kind, indulgent Parent, who always consults the good of his children.

“ The Questions you proposed I shall answer with Pleasure. I am stationed at Brookline Fort, at Sewall's Point, situated between Cambridge and Roxbury, on Charles River. We have no great prospect of a Battle at present. They will never presume without a very Considerable Reinforcement to attempt to force our lines, which are very strong ; nor we theirs. The army is very healthy, in fine spirits, resolute in the Cause. We have no certain News from the British Troops,—a few deserters now and then ; but their relations are to be but little depended on. The people in Boston have been and still are in a very disagreeable situation. They have liberty to come out, but they come out very slow, for



a few Boats pass a day, and those over Winissinet Ferry only. The Generals are well. We have various accounts from England, but no Intelligence to be depended on. Nothing remarkable has happened here of late. Judges nor Justices are appointed. But the Assembly in their next session, I understand, are a going to appoint them. The Council at present are settling the Militia of the Province. I should esteem it a great favor to be informed as soon as possible of the Plan preferred by the Continental Congress for raising troops for the ensuing Campaign,—whether I could obtain the Command of a regiment if I could raise one.

“There are a number of things I stand in great need of, which cannot easily be procured here but at a very extravagant price. Should be glad you would furnish me with a genteel Hanger [sword], a yard and a half of superfine scarlet Broadcloth with suitable Trimmings for a coat of Uniform, and a piece of Holland. I am in good health ; very much pleased with a Military life, tho’gh attended with many inconveniences. I shall for the future take every opportunity of writing, and when anything of importance occurs, shall endeavor to give the earliest intelligence.

“I am, Sir, your most dutiful Son,

“ISAAC SHERMAN.

“N. B.—I should be glad to know what number of men a regiment will consist of the ensuing campaign. Mr. Seever, the Bearer of this, will tarry some days in Philadelphia—he is after goods. You may, if agreeable, have an opportunity of sending the Things I wrote for with his, and they will be conveyed with safety to me. Mr. Sevar will purchase the quantity of goods he propose at N. York ; these things may be obtained there and sent with his if equally agreeable to you.

“To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Roger Sherman, Esq<sup>r</sup>, at Philadelphia ; favored by Mr. Sevar.”<sup>1</sup>

While troops were hurrying toward Boston, after the Lexington alarm, there occurred, May 10th, the clever surprise of old Fort Ticonderoga, at Lake George. Major John Brown, class of 1771, figured

<sup>1</sup> For a copy of this letter the writer is indebted to the Hon. George F. Hoar, Senator from Massachusetts, a descendant of Roger Sherman.



prominently in that affair and afterwards in that department. He was a rising young lawyer, of Berkshire County, Mass., a capable, manly fellow, full of spirit and resolution, who, on several occasions, did capital service and finally gave his life to the country. Acquainted with his merits, as he was a member of the last Provincial Congress, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety requested him, early in 1775, to make a trip into Canada to ascertain the temper of the people and movements of the authorities. This duty he promptly undertook, and on March 29th wrote an interesting letter from Montreal to the committee, giving them much information and making some excellent suggestions. The letter is important as containing, so far as the records show, the first proposal to secure Ticonderoga, the old strategic point of the French and Indian War. Brown's words are these: "One thing I must mention, to be kept as a profound secret. The fort at Ticonderoga must be seized as soon as possible, should hostilities be committed by the king's troops. The people on New Hampshire Grants have engaged to do this business, and in my opinion they are the most proper persons for this job. This will effectually curb this Province, and all Troops that may be sent here."<sup>1</sup>

Massachusetts was preparing to act upon this hint after Lexington, when Connecticut anticipated her with an independent movement in which our graduates again appear. An expedition was set on foot from Hartford, at the instance of ten or twelve individuals who advanced the necessary funds from the

<sup>1</sup> Letter published in full in Force's *American Archives*.

public treasury, giving their own notes as security. Among them were Joshua Porter, class of 1754, and Silas Deane and Samuel Wyllys, class of 1758. Harvard was represented by Samuel Holden Parsons and William Williams. The prompt action of these gentlemen, proceeding on their own responsibility, led to speedy success. A few volunteers from Connecticut marched to Pittsfield, where they were joined by John Brown, as well as Israel Dickinson, of the class of 1758, and all continued the march to Bennington and Castleton. There, Hampshire men were met, and an organization effected under Colonels Ethan Allen and Easton, and on the morning of May 10th, the garrison of the fort was surprised and captured. This was an acquisition. Brown and Dickinson engaged in the affair, and are mentioned in Colonel Allen's report as having "distinguished themselves very highly both in council and action." Brown marched the prisoners out of the fortress, and was then despatched to report the capture in person to Congress.

When Montgomery afterwards proceeded to occupy Canada, Brown accompanied him as major of Easton's Massachusetts regiment. On the way, in October, he assisted in compelling the surrender of Chamblee and received his general's thanks. "Major Brown," says Montgomery, "offered his services upon this occasion. Upon this, and all other occasions, I have found him active and intelligent." Pushing on to Montreal, where Gen. Wooster, who cordially supported Montgomery, was left in command, the main party continued their march to Quebec, to meet Ar-

nold and assault the city. In that ill-fated attempt, on the morning of Dec. 31, 1775, which cost us Montgomery's valuable life, many fine officers, who subsequently rose to distinction, were engaged. Major Brown commanded one of the detachments directed to demonstrate in the front of the city while the main attacks were made in the rear. All failed, and the handful of Americans fell back to continue the appearance of an investment through the winter. Brown was stationed at the advance lines where he suffered intensely from the cold. The nature of his duties appears from one of his unpublished letters as well as from this brief order to be found in the fragment of an old Quebec Order-Book preserved in the Pension Bureau at Washington :

“ Jan. 27, 1776—opposite Quebec.

“ The different guards are to instruct their sentrys that when they see any Rockets thrown from the guards at the hospital or the advanced guard at Major Brown's quarters, is to be taken for the signal of allarum.”

In the letter, which was written to his wife, Major Brown speaks of a disagreement between himself and Arnold. This seems to have originated at the surprise of Ticonderoga, and ended in a series of charges preferred against the latter by Brown. The Major mistrusted Arnold's honesty at an early date. His letter is as follows :

“ CAMP NEAR QUEBEC, March 15, 1776.

“ DEAR WIFE :—By Lt. Pixley, of Stockbridge, I send this, which I suppose will come direct—nothing of great consequence has happened since my last which concerns the army. Capt. Brown [the Major's brother] now lies before me breathing his last, having taken the smallpox about twelve days since. Terri-

ble tidings this to our family at Sandisfield. I have got him a good house in the country, where he has the best attention. I have waited on him with Doctor Binna of Tyringham during his illness, but all in vain. He is lost. I shall be home in the spring, God willing—have spent the winter very disagreeably indeed. The Sandisfield troops arrived here three days since, who tell me you are all well. . . .

"I hear General Lee is nigh at hand, in which I rejoice. Mr. General Arnold and I do not agree very well. I expect another storm soon—suppose I must be a Uriah. We had an alarm yesterday. The enemy made a sally on our working party; it is said with five hundred men. General Arnold immediately ordered me, being on the advance post, to attack them with my detachment, which consists of about two hundred, more than half of which were sick in hospital. I accordingly marched against the enemy, who had retired into the Fort too soon for me to attack them. I expect to be punished for disobedience of orders next. On the whole, we are in an indifferent situation at present. I suppose all letters are broken open before they reach the Colonies, but as this goes by a friend it will come safe.

"I am solicited to stay another year as Lt. Colonel, but have refused. Shall I consent? Compliments to all friends, &c.

"I am, &c., your loving husband, &c.,

"JNO. BROWN."

"To Mrs. Huldah Brown, Pittsfield." <sup>1</sup>

Word of the Quebec disaster was sent to Wooster at Montreal, now the senior officer in Canada, and he immediately issued the following instructions to Col. James Clinton, commanding one of the New York regiments at that post:

"HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, Jan. 4, 1776.

"COL. CLINTON:—Sir, you are hereby desired and directed to proceed with all possible expedition to the Army lately commanded by our Brave Deceased General Montgomery, and take the command of them till Col. Arnold shall recover from his

<sup>1</sup> From a copy of the original in possession of Mr. H. C. Van Schaack, Manlius, N. Y.

wound or till otherwise Ordered—with regard to the measures you are to take with the Army, I shall leave it to your discretion, with the advice of the other officers. You will communicate to me all transactions of importance, and upon your arrival, forward to me, by the first safe conveyance, all General Montgomery's public and private papers.

“By order of GENERAL WOOSTER.

“JAMES CARR BENJAMIN, Aid-De-Camp.”<sup>1</sup>

The attempt on Canada, however, came to nothing. Wooster himself took command before Quebec in April, but he was disliked by Gen. Schuyler, commanding the department, and a Committee of Congress recommended his removal, which John Adams regarded as an act of injustice. On this point further facts are presented in the biographical sketch of the General. He was succeeded by Gen. Thomas, of Massachusetts, whose secretary and aid was Major Theodore Sedgewick, class of 1765, afterwards judge and United States Senator. Thomas soon died, and our troops withdrew from Canada.

The Boston siege promised better success. Capt. Chester, who was promoted major of Col. Erastus Wolcott's regiment in Jan., 1776, continued to write interesting letters to his friends at Wethersfield, several of which have been published.<sup>2</sup> He was very anxious to have the enemy driven out of the town. “Great complaints,” he wrote, Feb. 15th, “are here made by y<sup>e</sup> Gen<sup>ls</sup> of the want of Powder, which impedes everything; they think that even the town stocks ought to be delivered up to the army, for if we can do nothing here this season, forty times the

<sup>1</sup> From the original among the MSS. at “Washington's Head-Quarters,” Newburg, N. Y.

<sup>2</sup> See note on p. 21.



quantity in the Country will be of no service when the reinforcements arrive from England. If we can rout this Horneſt Neſt now we have every-thing to hope, if not we 've every-thing to fear. The cauſe is General & Common. Why ſhould Diſtant Colonies & towns carry on a diſtinct War and lay out for a diſtinct defence? You need not fear to Drive on the Salt Petre works vigorously. Pray how go on the Powder Mills. We ſhall want their moſt vigorous exertions ſoon."

Col. Henry Babcock, and Capt. William Coit, who had been in the Boſton camps, varied their ſervice with ſome independent experiences. Coit, hailing from New London, knew ſomething of ſea life, and, after ſhowing his courage at Bunker Hill, took command of a privateer. It was not long before he fell in with rich prizes. Two that he captured in November, 1775, were laden with "fiſh, flour, hogs, ſheep, cattle, potatoes, cheese, and all kinds of poultry, from Halifax, for the uſe of the hungry crew in Boſton." He ſeems to have had a vein of humor in him, as a publiſhed letter ſtates that he landed his priſoners on Plymouth Rock and there made them give three cheers and wiſh all happineſs to America.<sup>1</sup> He is ſaid to have been the firſt rebel to turn "his Maſteſty's bunting upſide down."

Col. Babcock, of Rhode Iſland, had been ſerving as a volunteer with Gen. Putnam, his old companion in the French and Indian War, where he won no little reputation. He was but twenty-one when commis-

<sup>1</sup> Penn. *Journal*, Nov. 29, 1775. See extract from one of Coit's letters in biographical ſketch.



sioned colonel, and is spoken of as a youth of unusual brilliancy. The Rhode Island Assembly gave him the "home-brigade" early in 1776, and he immediately laid it under strict discipline, first addressing it in a salutatory order as follows :

"GENTLEMEN OFFICERS AND BROTHER SOLDIERS :

\* \* \* \* \*

"Many, and most of you, I am certain, have engaged in the service of your country upon the best Principles, viz., that of defending your aged parents, your wives and children, against the arbitrary attempts of a wretched, abandoned, and most profligate administration, who have compelled us to take up arms in the defence of all that's dear and valuable. You will therefore bring no disgrace upon so good a cause, but in case of an action, which may sooner happen than many of you may expect, behave yourselves with coolness, firmness, and manly fortitude, by which means you will call down the Divine Blessing upon our arms.

"I have the pleasure to acquaint you that this wide Extended Continent are almost united to a man to oppose with firmness every attempt to enslave us. The country, My Brothers (for as such I shall esteem every good soldier), cannot be enslaved ; we must and shall be Free, and grow into greatness by opposition. The kingdom of Great Britain (tho' formerly famed for arts and arms) is now galloping headlong to ruin. The Empire of America is rising to glory.

"I shall make it my study to inform you of every part of your duty as fast as I possibly can. Your pay and provisions I shall be very careful that you have ; on your part I shall expect the most implicit obedience to the orders of your officers. I wish you health and happiness (which will much depend on a virtuous conduct and keeping yourselves neat and clean) and as much glory as you can possibly wish yourselves.<sup>1</sup>

The Colonel, unfortunately, developed certain eccentricities about this time, which barred his entrance

<sup>1</sup> This and the succeeding extract from the *New London Gazette*, March 8 and April 19, 1776.

into the field, where otherwise he might have distinguished himself. He was deprived of his command, but not before he had the opportunity of showing what he could do in a "lucid interval." While stationed at Newport he assisted in driving off the *Scarborough*, a British twenty-gun ship, which, with two tenders, sailed into the harbor one evening early in April, with the obvious intention of doing mischief. A party of volunteers captured the tenders (a brig and schooner) while the Colonel opened a sharp fire on the man-of-war from one of the forts. He receives high praise for his conduct in a published account of the affair, where the writer adds at the close :

"We are bound in justice to say that the disposition on shore, made by Colonel Babcock, was very soldierlike, and, notwithstanding his indisposition, he was on horseback a great part of the night, fired one of the eighteen-pounders from the North Battery himself and hulled the *Scarborough*, and behaved in so cool and approved a manner as made even the Tories fear him. The Sons of Liberty take this opportunity of returning Colonel Babcock their particular thanks for the Discipline he has established in the Brigade under his command. Notwithstanding the clamor made against him of Insanity, we think him perfectly in his sober senses."

The British evacuated Boston March 17, 1776, and on the same day our forces took possession. Lieut.-Colonel Fisher Gay, of Farmington, Conn., and of Col. Erastus Wolcott's regiment, leaves in his journal about the only record we have of the entry of the troops. Col. Gay had lately been requested by Washington to purchase all the gunpowder he could in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and after a rapid

and successful trip which gave the General "great satisfaction," he returned to duty near Boston Neck. On the day of the evacuation, March 17th, he writes :

" . . . Colonel Wolcott on the Hill—An alarm in the morning. I ordered the regiment to meet before the Colonel's door after prayers. I marched them off with Major Chester. Near the alarm post found instead of going to action the enemy had abandoned Boston. 500 troops ordered immediately. Ordered to march into and take possession of the fortifications in Boston. Colonel Learnard, my self, Majors Sprout and Chester, with a number of other officers and troops marched in and took possession and tarried there till the 19<sup>th</sup> at night ; then returned to camp at Roxbury. Never people more glad at the departure of an enemy and to see friends."<sup>1</sup>

Boston relieved, Washington put a large part of his army on the road for New York, which was to become the scene of operations in the next campaign.

<sup>1</sup> See note on page 21.





## EVENTS IN 1776-77.

The New York Campaign—List of Alumni Soldiers—Declaration of Independence—Joseph Hawley—Battle of Long Island—Colonel Silliman—Retreat to New York—Tallmadge's Account of It—Loss of New York—Nathan Hale—Bushnell's Torpedo—White Plains—Trenton and Princeton—Letter from Capt. Hull—Hitchcock's Gallant Conduct—Deaths of Graduate Officers.

WE now have more stirring times. War came with a reality and energy that put the devotion of the country to a painful test. The change of base from Boston to New York meant the concentration at the latter point of thirty thousand of England's best troops and mercenaries to stamp out rebellion with the hardest blows. In addition, prestige lost at Boston had to be recovered. The result anticipated by the enemy followed. Washington's army, which attempted to defend New York, experienced that series of defeats and losses, beginning with the battle of Long Island and ending with the retreat through New Jersey, with which every one is familiar. It was the anxious summer and fall of 1776, a very critical period of the war, which might have closed with unwelcome apprehensions, had not Trenton and Princeton suddenly changed the situation and revived faith and confidence.

Between eighty and ninety graduates took part in the operations of the year, some serving to the close of the campaign, others serving brief terms with the

militia. Most of them were to be found in the army at New York, under Washington's immediate command ; a few in the northern department and elsewhere. Twelve or fifteen came with the Continental regiments from Boston—for instance, Colonels Wyllys and Hitchcock, Major Sherman, Captains Hull, Hale, Grosvenor, and others. In the emergency, that is, in June and July, 1776, especially after the enemy had landed in force at Staten Island, Washington called urgently for more troops, and many hurried to his assistance. New York furnished two new brigades, one of which, consisting of four regiments, was commanded by Brigadier-General John Morin Scott, of the class of 1746, already mentioned as one of the ablest of the patriotic leaders in the State. Lewis Morris, of the same State and class, was appointed brigadier of Westchester County troops, but being a member of the Continental Congress he did not assume any command until later in the war. William Livingston, of the class of 1741, appeared as brigadier-general at the head of Jersey militia, and watched the enemy on Staten Island until August, when the Legislature elected him governor of the State. Connecticut sent a large proportion of the reinforcements called for, the most reliable of which were the seven regiments raised in June to serve through the year, and placed under the command of Brigadier-General James Wadsworth, of the class of 1748. Four of his colonels were also graduates, namely, Gold Selleck Silliman, Philip Burr Bradley, Fisher Gay, and John Chester, as well as two lieutenant-colonels, John Chandler and Giles Rus-

sell. In August, Brigadier-General Oliver Wolcott, class of 1747, lately returned from Congress, brought down a body of militia from Western Connecticut, and still later Brigadier-General Gurdon Saltonstall, class of 1725, the oldest graduate who ventured into the field, arrived with another body from the eastern section of the State; while in December, General Wooster, who had been recalled from Canada, stationed himself with militiamen in Westchester County and along the Connecticut border. The other graduates were generally subordinate officers in these several commands. As far as can be ascertained, the list, with their latest rank, of those who served at any time in this campaign, from the spring of 1776 into January 1777, when the battle of Princeton was fought, would be as follows :

## AROUND NEW YORK.

Maj.-Gen. David Wooster,	Chaplain Ebenezer Baldwin,
Brig.-Gen. John M. Scott,	“ Abner Benedict,
“ William Livingston,	“ Thomas Brockway,
“ James Wadsworth,	“ Joseph Buckminster,
“ Oliver Wolcott,	“ Ebenezer Cleaveland,
“ Gurdon Saltonstall,	“ John Cleaveland,
Colonel Samuel Wyllys,	“ Hezekiah Chapman,
“ Daniel Hitchcock,	“ Stephen Johnson,
“ Gold S. Silliman,	“ Isaac Lewis,
“ Philip B. Bradley,	“ Benjamin Pomeroy,
“ Fisher Gay,	“ John Storrs,
“ John Chester,	“ Benjamin Trumbull,
“ Joseph Platt Cooke,	“ Samuel Wales,
“ Mark Hopkins,	Asst. Adj.-Gen. Eben. Huntington,
Lieut.-Col. John Chandler,	“ “ Mark Leavenworth,
“ Giles Russell,	Brigade-Major John P. Wyllys,
“ Experience Storrs,	“ “ Daniel Lyman,
“ Thomas Seymour,	“ “ William Peck,
Major Isaac Sherman,	“ “ Ebenezer Gray,
Surgeon Jared Potter,	“ “ Benjamin Tallmadge,
“ Josiah Hart,	Adjutant David Humphreys,



Adjutant Andrew Hillyer,  
 " Sam. A. S. Barker,  
 Captain Thomas Grosvenor,  
 " William Hull,  
 " Nathan Hale,  
 " Theophilus Munson,  
 " Hezekiah Wyllys,  
 " Jabez Hamlin,  
 " Samuel Eells,  
 " Stephen R. Bradley,  
 Lieutenant Ezra Selden,  
 " Richard Sill,  
 " Jonathan Heart,

Lieutenant James Morris,  
 " Royal Flint,  
 " Jonathan Bellamy,  
 " James Watson,  
 " Amos Northrop,  
 " Nathaniel West,  
 " Simeon Newell,  
 " James Hillhouse,  
 " Ashbel Baldwin,  
 Aide-de-Camp Thomas Wooster,  
 Volunteer Joel Barlow,  
 " David Bushnell,  
 " Elisha S. Williams.

## AT TICONDEROGA.

Colonel John Paterson,  
 Surgeon Thomas Russell,  
 Chaplain David Avery,  
 " Ammi R. Robbins,  
 Captain Moses Ashley,

Captain Vine Elderkin,  
 " Elijah Abel,  
 Lieutenant William Nichols,  
 " Enoch Woodbridge.

## AT FORT STANWIX.

Captain Robert Walker,

Lieutenant Nehemiah Rice.

## AT BOSTON.

Chaplain William Plumbe.

William Coit became Captain of the Connecticut man-of-war "Oliver Cromwell," with Bela Elderkin as Lieutenant of Marines. John Elderkin was probably a regimental Quartermaster at New York ; Stephen Keyes, also, a line officer.

Briefly outlined, the events of this year included the battle of Long Island, retreat to New York, evacuation of the city, battle of Harlem Heights, retreat to and battle of White Plains, loss of Fort Washington, retreat through New Jersey, and finally, the battles of Trenton and Princeton. They followed each other rapidly, from Aug. 27th to Jan. 3d.

The successful defence of New York without a fleet was problematical, but not to attempt it would have been too frank an admission of timidity or weakness. Accordingly, when the Boston army reached the city in April, it was set to work at the old task of fortifying. The men were well used to

spade and shovel. Something had been done before by New York and Connecticut troops, but vastly more remained to be done. Works were laid out at every defensible point in the vicinity, and digging went on for four months before the enemy were prepared to attack. Officers had their hands full directing the fatigue parties, drilling in camp, and doing guard duty. As to the graduates, Gen. Scott was quartered with his brigade in the city, where batteries were thrown up along the river fronts ; Col. Silliman and Chester, of Gen. Wadsworth's brigade, on the east side ; Col. Bradley on Bergen Heights and Paulus Hook, now Jersey City ; Col. Wyllys near Jones' Hill, East Grand St. ; Major Sherman on the North River, about the foot of Canal St. ; Captains Hull and Hale near Bayard's Hill ; Gen. Livingston at Elizabethtown Point, New Jersey ; Col. Gay and Hitchcock, under Gen. Greene, on the Brooklyn front ; and the others elsewhere from Governor's Island to King's Bridge.

The last-named officer, Col. Daniel Hitchcock, class of 1761, commanding one of the two Rhode Island regiments in the service (Col. James Varnum, graduate of Brown, commanding the other) will make an enviable record during this campaign. He went to college from Springfield, Mass., but settled in the practice of the law at Providence, R. I. Gen. Greene, of the same State, thought highly of both his colonels. Like himself, both were excellent disciplinarians, and of mature and safe judgment. Their regiments were among the best in the army, and with others were assigned to the construction and defence

of the works on the Long Island side. Hitchcock's command built Fort Putnam, which stood on the high ground in the present Washington Park, Brooklyn, and in his orders of June 17th Greene named that as their permanent station: "Col. Hitchcock's Reg<sup>t</sup>., to take fort Putnam and the fort or redoubt on the left of it for their alarm posts. . . . In case of an attack all these posts are to be defended to the last extremity."<sup>1</sup> Serving faithfully during the year, the Colonel will render signal and distinguished service at the close, although, unhappily, it was the cause of his death soon after.

This was the year, also, of the Declaration of Independence, which brought matters to a definite issue and attached additional significance to all military operations that followed. It practically cut off reconciliation and foreshadowed a long and determined contest.<sup>2</sup> Four of our graduates were among the "Signers" of that famous instrument, namely, Philip Livingston and Lewis Morris of New York, Oliver Wolcott of Connecticut, and Lyman Hall of Georgia. As the biography of the signers is to be found in print, and generally accessible to the reader, it is enough in this connection simply to recall these names. With them, however, we may mention that of another graduate, not so well known, whose voice was always listened to with deep attention, and who powerfully urged separation from Great Britain at

<sup>1</sup> Gen. Greene's orders in "The Campaign of 1776 around New York and Brooklyn." *Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society*, vol. iii. Brooklyn, 1878.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Stiles said of it: "Thus the Congress has tied the Gordian knot, which the Parliament will find they can neither cut nor untie. The Thirteen Colonies now rise into an Independent Republic, among the Kingdoms, States, and Empires on Earth."—Holmes' "Life of Stiles."

*Phil. Livingston**Lewis Morris**Oliver Wolcott**Symon Hall*

an early day. This was Hon. Joseph Hawley, Major Hawley, as he was called, class of 1742, who lived at Northampton, Mass. He was an eminent lawyer and frequently represented his town in the General Court at Boston, where he took the lead in public discussions. He is remembered as a man of great intellectual power and force of character, but without that ambition which would have led him with men like John Adams into a wider field. His reputation was confined mainly to Massachusetts. There, we are told his influence was "almost unexampled." He seems to have forecast the tendency of the controversy with England earlier than his colleagues, and always gave a pronounced opinion on current issues. Bancroft states that he was the first to deny openly in a colonial legislature Parliament's right to legislate for America. Later, when few men dared to think of a resort to arms, Hawley saw that it was inevitable. To those who reminded him of the danger of

the unequal contest he replied: "We must put to sea. Providence will bring us into port." So firm were his convictions on this point that early in 1774 he impressed his views upon the Massachusetts delegation, then attending the first Congress in Philadelphia, in what he called a series of "broken hints." His sentences were full of fire. "We must fight," he wrote, "if we cannot otherwise rid ourselves of British taxation, all revenues, and the constitution or form of government enacted for us by the British Parliament. It is evil against right. . . . It is now or never that we must assert our liberty. . . . Fight we must finally unless Britain retreats." When war came Hawley was again among the first to urge independence as the true ground on which to prosecute it. His letters to Elbridge Gerry in Congress early in 1776 show how much in earnest he was. "Independence," he says to him, "is the only way to union and harmony, to vigor and dispatch in business. Our eye will be single and our whole body full of light. Any thing short of it will, as appears to me, be our destruction, infallible destruction, and that speedily." "You cannot declare independence too soon." "My hand and heart are full of it. There will be no abiding union without it." "Let there be a full revolution, or all has been done in vain. Independence, and a well-planned Continental government, will save us." "Without an American independent supreme Government and Constitution, wisely devised and designed, well established and settled, we shall always be but a rope of sand; but that well done, invincible." Nor was Hawley con-



tent to indulge in words and counsel alone. He became Chairman of the Northampton Committee of Safety, and was active in the years 1776 and 1777 in raising and equipping troops for service in New York and Canada. A few of his letters to the State Committee, showing what he did in this direction, are preserved in the Massachusetts Archives at Boston. William Tudor, Hawley's contemporary, who places him high among the worthies of that State in that important period, pays this tribute to his memory : " He, in fine, formed one of those manly, public-spirited and generous citizens, ready to share peril and decline reward, who illustrate the idea of a Commonwealth ; and who, through the obstructions of human passions and infirmities, being of rare occurrence, will always be the most admired, appropriate, and noble ornaments of a free government."<sup>1</sup>

### *Joseph Hawley*

The campaign opened on August 22d, when the enemy crossed from their encampments on Staten Island to the Long Island shore at Gravesend, and marched towards our Brooklyn lines. Gen. Livingston learned of the movement through a spy and was the first to inform Washington of it. More troops were at once pushed across the East River to defend

<sup>1</sup> See Tudor's " Life of James Otis " pp. 253-60, where he gives Hawley an elaborate notice. A full sketch, with authorities, appears in Prof. Dexter's " Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College, with Annals of the College History, Oct., 1701-May, 1745."—N. Y., Henry Holt & Co., 1885.

Hawley being major of the Second Hampshire Co. Militia regiment before the war, was generally known as Major Hawley.



the works on that side, and large picket detachments were sent to the hills beyond in the present Greenwood Cemetery and Prospect Park. After four days' delay, on the morning of August 27th, the enemy advanced and by noon had won what is known as the battle of Long Island. They succeeded in outflanking the force at the hills and passes—about five thousand men—and caused its precipitate retreat to the main works, in the course of which there was considerable fighting, accompanied with the loss, on our part, of about eight hundred prisoners. By not sufficiently guarding the Jamaica road on the left, the Americans suffered a surprise and defeat. The enemy then prepared to lay siege to the fortified line which ran through what is now the heart of Brooklyn, when Washington, on the night of the 29th, silently withdrew the troops and accomplished his famous retreat across the river to New York.

Quite a number of graduates were concerned in these movements. Gay's and Hitchcock's regiments were already on that side. Among the additional troops sent over after the enemy landed were Col. Wylls', Silliman's, and Chester's regiments. Silliman's was sent to various points at the front, and in his letters, still preserved, he describes his experiences. On the 25th, for example, he wrote to his wife from the picket post in Prospect Park, opposite Flatbush, as follows :

"I wrote you yesterday morning from Brookline upon the Drum Head in the field as I do now, which I hope you will receive this day. . . . Have not so much as a bear skin

to lie on, only my blanket to wrap me in, for our removals from place to place are so quick & sudden that we can have no opportunity nor means to convey beds, &c., but go only with the cloaths on our backs & our blankets and a little ready-cooked victuals. I am now posted within about half a mile from the Regulars with my Regt. under the Covert of a woody hill to stop their passage into the Country. There are a number of Regts. posted all around the town within about the same distance & for the same purpose. The regulars keep up an almost Constant Fire from their cannon & mortars at some or other of us, but neither shott nor shell has come near my Regt. yet and they are at too great a distance to fire muskets at as yet. I have a scouting party going out now to see if they can't pick up some or get something from them. I came to this post this day at 12 o'clock & shall remain here till this time to-morrow, if God spares my life, with no other covering than the trees."<sup>1</sup>

On the morning of the battle, Wyllys' and Chester's regiments were stationed on the upper Flatbush road and narrowly escaped capture. They were caught in the thick of the retreat, and reached the lines as the enemy were about to surround them. Captain Grosvenor was with a detachment of rangers who were nearly entrapped. Lieutenants Peck and Newell were doubtless with Huntington's regiment, which lost heavily in prisoners, although they escaped. So also Lieutenants Selden and Sill, in Parson's old regiment, and Captain Huntington and Lieut. Heart in Wyllys'. Probably Captain Hezekiah Wyllys, brother of Col. Samuel, was with Chester's regiment, as the Adjutant, Benjamin Tallmadge, certainly was. "This was the first time in my life," says the latter, "that I had witnessed the awful scene of a battle, when man was engaged

<sup>1</sup> "Campaign of 1776 around New York and Brooklyn." L. I. Historical Society.

to destroy his fellow man. I well remember my sensations on the occasion, for they were solemn beyond description, and very hardly could I bring my mind to be willing to attempt the life of a fellow-creature." <sup>1</sup> The Adjutant, however, will develop fighting qualities before long. In the afternoon the enemy approached the fortified line, but were checked by a sharp fire from the forts. Col. Hitchcock seems to have been directing matters in person at Fort Putnam on the left, where he received some injury which obliged him to retire. Two days later he wrote to Col. Little at Fort Greene :

"The Wrench I rec<sup>d</sup> in my Back by the Starting of my Horse at my Gun just as I was mounting him, was so great that I scarcely got off from my Bed next Day, but feel much better of it now ; I hear the Regulars have built a Fort on the Hill east of Fort Putnam ; I am astonished that our People are not building two Forts where you & I have always contended for Forts to be built. For Heaven's Sake apply to the Generals yourself & urge the Necessity of it."

The Colonel had been ordered to New Jersey some days before the battle, but was soon called back to the Brooklyn front. During his absence he sent a note to Little, wishing him all happiness in case of a battle. "I know," he said, "you will all play the man—the critical Hour of America is come ; beat 'em once, they are gone."

By two o'clock on the 27th the battle was over, as the enemy made no serious attempt to carry the works. Washington sent to New York for additional troops, and by night there were about nine thousand men on that side. Among the graduates

<sup>1</sup> "Memoir of Col. Benjamin Tallmadge." New York, 1858.

were Generals Scott and Wadsworth, Lieut.-Colonels Chandler and Russell, Brigade-Major John P. Wyllys, Captains Hull and Hale, probably Captains Munson and Gray, Lieutenants Morris, Barker, and a few others, in addition to those already named as being at the Brooklyn lines and in the battle.

The retreat from Long Island was effected on the night of the 29th. Washington had already decided on this move, but he called a council of war to confirm it. Generals Scott and Wadsworth were both present. The former, as far as known, is the only member who has left us any thing in regard to what transpired on the occasion beyond the final result. In a letter to John Jay, published in the third volume of the "Long Island Historical Society's Memoirs," he says :

"I was summoned to a Council of War at Mr. Philip Livingston's house on Thursday, 29th ult., never having had reason to expect a proposition for a retreat till it was mentioned. . . . As it was suddenly proposed, *I as suddenly objected to it*, from an aversion to giving the enemy a single inch of ground ; but *was soon convinced by the unanswerable reasons for it*. They were these. Invested by an enemy of above double our number from water to water, scant in almost every necessary of life, and without covering, and liable every moment to have the communication between us and the city cut off by the entrance of the frigates into the East River between Governor's Island and Long Island ; which General McDougall assured us from his own nautic experience was very feasible. In such a situation we should have been reduced to the alternative of desperately attempting to cut our way [through] a vastly superior enemy, with the certain loss of a valuable stock of artillery and artillery stores, which the continent has been collecting with great pains ; or by famine and fatigue have been made an easy prey to the enemy. In either case the campaign would have ended in the total ruin of our

army. The resolution, therefore, to retreat was unanimous, and tho' formed late in the day, was executed the following night with unexpected success."

As we know, this retreat was skilfully managed, the point of embarkation being the site of the present Brooklyn Ferry House. Col. Tallmadge, then Adjutant, gives this description of it in his "Memoirs":

"To move so large a body of troops, with all their necessary appendages, across a river full a mile wide, with a rapid current, in face of a victorious, well disciplined army, nearly three times as numerous as his own, and a fleet capable of stopping the navigation, so that not one boat could have passed over, seemed to present most formidable obstacles. But, in the face of these difficulties, the Commander-in-Chief so arranged his business, that on the evening of the 29th, by 10 o'clock, the troops began to retire from the lines in such a manner that no chasm was made in the lines, but as one regiment left their station on guard, the remaining troops moved to the right and left and filled up the vacancies, while Gen. Washington took his station at the ferry, and superintended the embarkation of the troops. It was one of the most anxious, busy nights that I ever recollect, and being the third in which hardly any of us had closed our eyes to sleep, we were all greatly fatigued. As the dawn of the next day approached, those of us who remained in the trenches became very anxious for our own safety, and when the dawn appeared there were several regiments still on duty. At this time a very dense fog began to rise, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well; and so very dense was the atmosphere I could scarcely discern a man at six yards' distance.

"When the sun rose we had just received orders to leave the lines, but before we reached the ferry, the Commander-in-Chief sent one of his Aids to order the regiment to repair again to their former station on the lines. Col. Chester immediately faced to the right about and returned, where we tarried until the sun had risen, but the fog remained as dense as ever. Finally, the



second order arrived for the regiment to retire, and we very joyfully bid those trenches a long adieu. When we reached Brooklyn ferry, the boats had not returned from their last trip, but they very soon appeared and took the whole regiment over to New York; and I think I saw Gen. Washington on the ferry stairs when I stepped into one of the last boats that received the troops. I left my horse tied to a post at the ferry.

"The troops having now all safely reached New York, and the fog continuing as thick as ever, I began to think of my favorite horse, and requested leave to return and bring him off. Having obtained permission, I called for a crew of volunteers to go with me, and guiding the boat myself, I obtained my horse and got off some distance into the river before the enemy appeared in Brooklyn.

"As soon as they reached the ferry, we were saluted merrily from their musketry, and finally by their field pieces; but we returned in safety. In the history of warfare, I do not recollect a more fortunate retreat."

From this time to the middle of December the British drove Washington from one position to another. With Brooklyn Heights in their hands, New York could not be held, and on September 15th, when the enemy landed at the foot of East Thirty-Fourth Street, our rear forces retreated to Washington Heights above Harlem, where the main army had already gone. On our part it was very much of a panic, the militia, as well as several of the older regiments, being caught at a disadvantage. Washington could not get them to stand against the regulars in the open field. There was much running that day, several of our graduates doing their share of it, no doubt; but we shall see how they retrieved themselves in later campaigns. Young Selden, Sill, Morris, Heart, Barker, Newell, and others, were among the number. Brigade-Major John P. Wyllys



was taken prisoner. Col. Silliman and his command passed through the hardest and most exciting experiences, as they were the last to leave the city. They succeeded in retreating on the west side through the woods, though constantly in danger of capture. "What fatigues, what perils, what risks," says the Colonel, three days later, "did I run thro' last Sabbath—a day never to be forgotten by me. Sometimes I was in the front, sometimes in the centre, and sometimes in the rear of my party, which extended near 2 miles in length, as I marched thro' the woods."<sup>1</sup> David Humphreys began his revolutionary career in this retreat as a volunteer adjutant in Silliman's brigade. He speaks of it in his "Life of General Putnam." "Before our brigade came in," he says, "we were given up for lost by all our friends. So critical indeed was our situation, and so narrow the gap by which we escaped, that the instant we had passed, the enemy closed it by extending their line from river to river."

On the following day, September 16th, occurred the battle of Harlem Heights, which was so much of a success for us that the soldiers forgot the experiences of the day before and quickly recovered their spirits. The fighting was brought on by Colonel Knowlton's Rangers who stirred up the advance parties of the enemy, and then, with the assistance of other troops, defeated them on Bloomingdale heights below Manhattanville. Among the officers of the Rangers—a small but picked body of about

<sup>1</sup> For other interesting extracts from Col. Silliman's letters in this campaign, see third vol. of the "L. I. Hist. Soc. Memoirs," already referred to.

one hundred and thirty men—was Captain Thomas Grosvenor, class of 1765, who figured at Bunker Hill.

There should have been in this action another officer of Knowlton's corps, graduate of 1773, who would have taken special delight in driving the British back to their camp, but who was just then absent from the army on a dangerous errand.

This was NATHAN HALE.

A cherished name we have here, and a story so generally familiar that its repetition seems almost superfluous. For the purposes of the record, the details of the case are presented in the biographical sketch of Hale, while in this connection it may suffice to notice the associations through which his memory has been perpetuated.

Young Hale, of Coventry, Conn., captain in Col. Charles Webb's regiment, had been in the army more than a year without having rendered, as he felt, any real service to the country. Soon after the battle of Long Island he joined the Rangers, with whom he hoped to be more active in the field. Learning that Washington was anxious to ascertain the exact disposition and probable designs of the enemy, he volunteered to enter their lines in disguise and obtain the information. Crossing from Stamford to Long Island, he made his observations in Howe's camp, and was about to return when he was detected, condemned as a spy, and executed in New York on the 22d of September. A British officer who brought word of his fate to the American lines, stated that after his arrest Hale conducted himself with dignity,

gave his name, rank, and mission, and finally, just before his execution, expressed the sentiment that has immortalized him as one of the noblest sacrifices of the Revolution. "I only regret," was the substance of his words, "that I have but one life to lose for my country."

But slight public notice was taken of Hale's fate at the time, and for four years after the records make no reference to him whatever. This was not altogether strange. Under the laws of war his execution could not be condemned, and failed to become a subject of official communication. The news shocked his friends in the army, and, doubtless, as they learned of his noble act of devotion, his memory became doubly endeared to them. But possibly, also, they felt that he had made a mistake, that the situation did not demand the sacrifice, and that to make much of his martyrdom might appear to be an exaltation of the rôle of a spy. Time would do his character justice; and so Hale's fate passed out of mind as one of the sadder "casualties" of the campaign.

In September, 1780, the American army was startled by the announcement of the arrest of Major André, Adjutant-General of the British forces, as a spy. His trial and execution followed. Every attempt was made by the enemy to save his life, and in our own camp, his youth, address, and rank excited universal sympathy. But here was Hale's case precisely, or in all its essentials. André as a spy at once gave dignity and character to Hale as a spy; little could be said for the one that could not be said for the other. The latter's memory was immedi-

ately revived, and, we may imagine, with a freedom and satisfaction which could not well be assumed in 1776. It happened that Major Benjamin Tallmadge, one of Hale's classmates and closest friends, was André's real captor, while most of his college companions and several of the officers of his old regiment who were in the service with him in 1776 were still to be found in Washington's camp. Some had been promoted to responsible positions. No doubt they all had much to say for Hale at a moment when so much kindly feeling was extended to André. While there is no direct evidence that the court which condemned André was at all influenced by Hale's case as a precedent, it seems certain that they knew of it (Lafayette, for one, as he states in his "Memoirs"), and that among officers generally the cases were discussed and regarded as parallel. From that time Hale's memory became in some sort a Revolutionary heirloom.

As confirming these statements, it is interesting to notice, that, as far as known, it was at this time that the first extended mention of Hale's fate appeared in print, and in the same relation to André's name in which it has been almost invariably mentioned ever since. The extract is from the *Boston Chronicle* as reprinted in the London *Remembrancer* in 1782. After noticing the consideration paid to André the writer proceeds :

"But while we pay the debt of humanity to our enemies, let us not forget what we owe to our friends. About four years ago, CAPT. HALE, an American officer, of a liberal education, younger than *André*, and equal to him in sense, fortitude, and every manly

accomplishment, though without opportunities of being so highly polished, voluntarily went into the city of New York, with a view to serve his invaded country. He performed his part there with great capacity and address, but was accidentally discovered. In this trying circumstance he exhibited all the firmness of André, without the aid of a single countenance around him that spoke either respect or compassion, and though every thing that was said or done to him was adapted to make him feel that he was considered as a traitor and a rebel. André appeared great in not contesting the clear grounds upon which he was condemned, and in refusing to employ the absurd and frivolous pleas that Clinton would have put into his mouth. Hale, though not at all disconcerted, made no plea for himself, and firmly rejected the advantageous offers made him by the enemy upon condition of his entering into their service. André earnestly wished the *mode* of his death might have been more like that of a soldier; but consoled himself by observing, that in either way it would be "but a moment's pang." Hale, calm and collected, took no notice of either of those circumstances. André as he was going to die, with great presence of mind and the most engaging air, bowed to all around him, and returned the respect that had been and was still paid to him; and said: "Gentlemen, you will bear witness that I die with the firmness becoming a soldier." Hale had received no such respects, and had none to return; but just before he expired, said, aloud: "I am so satisfied with the cause in which I have engaged, that my only regret is, that I have not more lives than one to offer in its service."

It was during the interval between the battle of Long Island and the loss of New York that David Bushnell, class of 1775, attempted to prove the utility of a torpedo boat he invented while in college. He proposed to blow up one of the British ships of war down the bay, but the practical operator not having become sufficiently familiar with the working of the machine, the attempt failed. Bushnell continued his experiments and showed much ingenuity as a mech-



anician. He is regarded, by competent military critics, as the originator of modern submarine warfare. Gen. Henry L. Abbot, of the Corps of Engineers in our own army, conceding this distinction to Bushnell, has become so far interested in his various efforts as to collect and print all accounts referring to them, for the benefit of the Engineer School of Application at Willet's Point, L. I. His conclusions in the case are : (1) that Bushnell was the first to perceive and illustrate by experiment that the pressure of water alone may develop an intensity of action in a submarine explosion sufficient to destroy a vessel in the vicinity ; (2) that it was he who gave the name "torpedo" to a case containing a charge of gunpowder to be fired under water ; (3) that he introduced the use of submarine boats, and of drifting torpedoes both coupled by a line and floating freely with the tide, for attacking hostile shipping.<sup>1</sup> Bushnell subsequently became a Captain in the Corps of Sappers and Miners, under Washington's Chief of Engineers.

After the capture of New York the enemy moved toward White Plains, where the battle of Oct. 28th occurred between portions of the two armies. Among graduates engaged were Cols. Silliman, Chandler, and Chester, Capt. Hull, Brigade-Major Tallmadge, and some others. The victory was claimed by both sides, but Washington again re-

<sup>1</sup> "The Beginning of Modern Submarine Warfare, under Captain David Bushnell, Sappers and Miners, Army of the Revolution. Being a Historical Compilation Arranged by Lieut.-Colonel Henry L. Abbot, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., Brevet Brigadier General. 1881."

See Biographical Sketch of Bushnell.



treated to North Castle, and finally withdrew into New Jersey. To the misfortunes of the campaign was added the loss of Fort Washington with many prisoners, among whom were most of Col. Bradley's regiment. The Colonel being absent sick, escaped capture. Washington continued his retreat to the Delaware and into Pennsylvania, with but the remnant of an army under his command. The British following closely, appeared, by the middle of December, to be complete masters of the situation.

In this depressing moment Washington did not stand alone. Strong men extended their sympathy and support. Gov. Livingston, for one, dropped him a line of cheer as he passed down through Newark. Congress was devising means for giving him a better army the next year, and its members wrote hopeful letters. Two from Wolcott may illustrate, one written before the campaign opened, and the other at the close. May 4, 1776, he says :

"In such tempestuous Times no one can say what the events of things may be, tho' I have no apprehension that Great Britain can subjugate this country ; to give us much trouble is doubtless in her power, and a people engaged in war must not always expect prosperity in all their undertakings. God has indeed in a wonderful manner hitherto granted us his protection, and I hope he will still continue it. Possess your own mind in peace. Fortitude not only enables us to bear evils, but prevents oftentimes those which would otherwise befall us. I do not apprehend any personal danger, and if I did, I hope I never shall betray that baseness as to shrink from it, but I do think it is not unlikely we may have a troublesome summer. And if so, let every one bear his part of the publick calamity with fortitude."

Wolcott was a short time with the army at New

York, and then returned to Congress. The news of the defeats does not seem to have depressed him, and on Dec. 13, after New York and New Jersey were lost to the enemy, he still wrote with a brave heart :

“ Whatever events may take place, the American cause will be supported to the last, and I trust in God that it will succeed. The Grecian, Roman, and Dutch states were in their infancy reduced to the greatest Distress, infinitely beyond what we have yet experienced. The God who governs the Universe, and who holds Empires in his Hand, can with the least effort of his will grant us all that security, opulence, and Renown which they have enjoyed. The present scene, it is true, appears somewhat gloomy ; but the natural or more obvious Cause seems to be owing to the term of enlistment of the Army having expired. I hope we may have a most respectable one before long established. The Business of war is the result of Experience.”<sup>1</sup>

But presently, as we know, there came an unexpected turn of affairs in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. With twenty-four hundred troops Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas night, and in a storm of snow and sleet dashed into Trenton and captured nearly one thousand Hessians. This was a brilliant stroke, which in a few days was to be followed by another of still greater importance in its moral effect. Returning to Trenton, Washington, on the night of Jan. 2d, found himself in a hazardous position on the east side of Assanpink Creek, with Cornwallis facing him and blocking his escape should he be defeated in the expected battle on the next day. Safety lay in outwitting Cornwallis during the night. The stratagem of the camp fires, the silent

<sup>1</sup> Letters from Gen. Oliver Wolcott to his wife, in the “ Wolcott Memorial.”



Engraved by F Halpin from a painting by Earle in 1782.



*Oliver Wolcott*

1782



withdrawal from the enemy's front, the night march to Princeton, the cut through the British lines, the march on to Morristown, the recovery of New Jersey, and the baffling of all Howe's plans, are a familiar story. Walpole, hearing of these surprises, wrote: "Washington has shown himself both a Fabius and a Camillus. His march through our lines is allowed to have been a prodigy of generalship."

Among our graduates participating in these manœuvres were Cols. Hitchcock, Chester, and Paterson, Major Sherman, Cpts. Hull, Grosvenor and Ashley, and probably Chaplain Avery, Lieutenants Watson, Elderkin, Flint, and others. Wilkinson states in his "Memoirs," that Sherman led the van of the army on the night march to Princeton. He was then in Glover's brigade. Hull leaves us a letter fresh from the Trenton field as follows :

. . . " . . . On the evening of the 25th ult., we were ordered to March to a ferry [McConkey's] about twelve miles from Trenton, where was stationed near two Thousand Hessians. As violent a Storm ensued of Hail & Snow as ever I felt. The Artillery and Infantry all were across the Ferry about 12 O'clock, consisting of only twenty-one hundred, principally New England Troops. In this Violent Storm we marched on for Trenton. Before Light in the Morning we gained all the Roads leading from Trenton. The Genl. gave orders that every Officer's Watch should be set by his, and the moment of attack was fixed. Just after Light, we came to their out Guard, which fired upon us and retreated. The first sound of the Musquetry and Retreat of the Guards animated the Men and they pushed on with Resolution and Firmness. Happily the fire begun on every Side at the same instant, their Main body had just time to form when there ensued a heavy Cannonade from our Field Pieces and a fine brisk and lively fire from our Infantry. This Continued but a Short time before the Enemy finding themselves flanked on every Side



laid down their Arms. The Resolution and Bravery of our Men, their Order and Regularity gave me the highest Sensation of Pleasure. Genl. Washington highly Congratulated the Men on the next day in Genl. Orders, and with Pleasure observed, that he had been in Many Actions before, but always perceived some Misbehaviour in some individuals, but in that Action he saw none. . . . What can't Men do when engaged in so noble a Cause. Our Men's Time expired Yesterday ; they have generally engaged to Tarry six weeks longer. My company almost to a Man. Orders have now come for us to march for Princetown. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps no one at Princeton did more effective service than Col. Daniel Hitchcock. He has been mentioned as one of Greene's favorite officers from Rhode Island, present at the siege of Boston and through the New York campaign. His regiment constructed and manned the left of the lines at Brooklyn, and just now he was commanding a brigade. One of his old soldiers remembers him as "an accomplished gentleman" and "fine officer," equalled by few in the army. On the morning of Jan. 3d, as the troops neared Princeton, Mawhood's British regiment delayed the column. It repulsed Mercer's brigade as well as Cadwallader's militia. This proving too serious a matter, Washington personally assisted in rallying the men, and at the same time sent word to Hitchcock to attack the enemy on the right. Hitchcock immediately drew up his command, reduced now to less than six hundred men, and advancing to within one hundred yards of the British, opened fire, "rushed on with intrepidity," as

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Capt. Wm. Hull to Hon. Andrew Adams, Litchfield, Conn., Trenton, Jan. 1, 1777. In "Legacy of Historical Gleanings," by Mrs. C. V. R. Bonney, vol. i., p. 57. Munsell, Albany, 1875.



one of his own officers says, drove them from the field, and captured their two pieces of artillery. The militia recovered themselves and also rushed forward. Hitchcock's timely and successful attack helped to clear the way and the troops all passed on to Princeton. We are told that after the action Washington took Hitchcock by the hand in front of Princeton College and publicly thanked him and his brigade for their gallant conduct. These troops had also bravely defended the bridge across the Assanpink on the previous evening. Their service seems to have become known and appreciated, as we find Dr. Benj. Rush writing, Jan. 6th, from Bordentown, to Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, as follows: "Much credit is due to a brigade of New England men commanded by Colonel Hitchcock in both actions [Jan. 2d, P.M. and Jan. 3d, A.M.]; they sustained a heavy fire from musketry and artillery for a long time without moving; they are entitled to a great share of the honour acquired by our arms at Princetown."

These return strokes put a glorious finish to an otherwise gloomy campaign. The men of the Revolution attached the greatest importance to them, as we know from many sources. Among others, Col. Chester tells us something of their immediate effect in a letter to Col. Webb, his old Bunker Hill lieutenant, but now aid to Washington, as follows:

"We all Congratulate you on the honor you have lately shared in the victories over our Common Enemy, and pray for a continuation of successes, till they may be obliged to quit the Land or kneel to Great George the American. You Cannot conceive the Joy & Raptures the people were universally in as we passed the

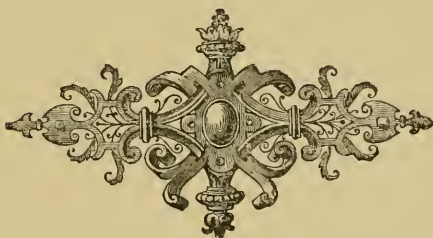
road. "T is good to be the messenger of Glad Tidings. We were the first that brought the news to Peek's Kill of y<sup>e</sup> Trenton affair. Gen<sup>l</sup> Heath thought it a matter well worth forwarding by Express to Boston, which he did. We have such vague, uncertain accounts of these matters in general that I cannot but think that it would richly pay the expence of forwarding accounts of this kind by express. They make an amazing alteration in the faces of men & things. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

This campaign entailed the loss of many good officers and men, especially from hardship and disease. Among the graduates, Col. Fisher Gay, of Farmington, was the first whose death is recorded. Taken ill a short time before the battle of Long Island, he either died or was buried on the day of the battle, August 27th. "Freedom or Death," are the words inscribed on his sword, still preserved by his descendants. Capt. Jabez Hamlin died in camp September 20th. Capt. Nathan Hale's name appears for the last time on the rolls of his regiment as "Killed, Sept. 22, 1776." Chaplain Ebenezer Baldwin, a much loved pastor of Danbury, who went into the service with his parishioners, fell a victim to camp malady in October. Col. Mark Hopkins, a lawyer in the prime of life and reputation in Berkshire Co., Mass., died from exhaustion at White Plains, October 27th, the day before the battle. Lieut. Jonathan Bellamy, son of the well-known divine, died of small-pox in New Jersey, January 4, 1777. Last, a great

<sup>1</sup> Letter dated Wethersfield, Jan. 17, 1777. From the original in the Webb MSS.

Gen. Heath says in his *Memoirs*, Dec. 30, 1776: "Col. Chester, of Connecticut, arrived at Peek's Kill, from Gen. Washington's camp, with the agreeable news, that the preceding Thursday morning, being the 26th, Gen. Washington, at the head of about 3,000 men, crossed the Delaware, and attacked the enemy at Trenton," etc.

loss, indeed—the noble Hitchcock, who is said to have been suffering from fever when he dashed into the Princeton fight, succumbed to the severities of the campaign and died at Morristown, January 13, 1777. “He was buried,” writes Greene, “with all the honors of war, as the last mark of respect we could show him.”





## EVENTS IN 1777-78.

The New Continental Army—Graduates in its Ranks—The Danbury Raid and Death of Gen. Wooster—Events in Pennsylvania—Battle of Germantown—Lieut. Morris, Prisoner—The Burgoyne Campaign—Graduates Engaged—Letters from Gen. Wolcott and Capt. Seymour—Col. Brown's Exploit—The Surrender—Washington's Congratulations—Letters from Gens. Scott and Silliman.

THE disasters of 1776 developed the need of a disciplined and permanent force with which to meet the enemy in the contests to come. Congress provided for one by ordering the enlistment of eighty-eight battalions of infantry, to be apportioned among the States, of which Massachusetts was to furnish fifteen, Connecticut eight, New York four, Pennsylvania twelve, and the rest in like ratio, according to population. Sixteen other regiments were to be raised on an independent basis, in addition to the usual artillery and cavalry complement. Long enlistments were substituted for short terms, the selection of officers was made with more regard to their fitness, a stricter military code was observed, and the departments generally reorganized. This new army, recruited in the early months of 1777, was known as the "second establishment"—that of 1776, organized at Boston, being the first,—and is familiar to us as the regular Continental Line of the Revolution. While the troops of each State were, as far as possible, brigaded together, and each State recruited its own "Line,"

and occasionally clothed and provisioned it, as an army they were wholly under the control of Congress and the Commander-in-chief. Congress, through its President, issued the officers' commissions, regulated promotions, purchased supplies and material, and provided the pay. It was this force, thus placed upon a proper footing, that was to be Washington's main dependence through the war; and under his cautious and skilful leadership it proved equal to the emergency. At times defeated and frequently reduced to privation, it was as often victorious, and in the end saved the country.

Looking through the scattered rolls of this army—the true “Continental” of the war,—we continue to find graduates down for service, many of whom, being soldiers of 1775 and 1776, seem in this way to have pledged themselves to fight it out to the end. General David Wooster was still a Continental brigadier. Colonel John Paterson was, in March of this year, promoted to the same rank. The Third, Fifth, and Eighth of the new regiments of the Connecticut Line were commanded respectively by Colonels Samuel Wyllys, Philip B. Bradley, and John Chandler, the latter having Giles Russell, a veteran of the French and Indian war, and of the last campaign, for his lieutenant-colonel. Major Isaac Sherman, who served the previous year with Massachusetts troops, was transferred to Connecticut, and became Lieut.-Colonel of the Second Regiment. On the other hand, Captain William Hull left his Connecticut associations and was appointed Major of the Eighth Massachusetts. Both these appointments followed

upon Washington's recommendation, and both men subsequently did noteworthy service and received further promotion. Captains Thomas Grosvenor, Ebenezer Huntington, and Ebenezer Gray appear this year as majors, and the former, also as lieut.-colonel under Wyllys. Huntington joined Colonel Samuel B. Webb's independent or "additional" regiment, which prided itself on its *personnel*, and made a good record. It was quite a Yale corps—its major, surgeon, five of its eight captains, and two or more lieutenants in 1777-78 being graduates. The surgeon was Jeremiah West; the captains, John P. Wyllys, Thomas Wooster, Joseph Walker, James Watson, Samuel W. Williams; and Lieutenant Roger Welles, who became captain in 1780. Arranged in other regiments of the State Line were Captains Theophilus Munson, David Humphreys, Vine Elderkin, Nathaniel Webb, William Judd; Lieutenants James Morris, Roger Alden, Augustine Taylor, Moses Cleaveland, John Mix, and Nathaniel Chipman. Ezra Selden, Jonathan Heart, Samuel A. S. Barker, Elihu Marvin, and Nehemiah Rice were five of the eight Connecticut adjutants, all of whom were subsequently promoted. William Nichols appears as lieutenant and regimental paymaster; Richard Sill, David Judson, and John Elderkin, as lieutenants and quartermasters.

On the rolls of the Massachusetts Line were to be found, in addition to those of Paterson and Hull, the names of John Porter, first as Captain and then Major of the Thirteenth Regiment; of Moses Ashley, Captain in the First; of Daniel Lyman, Captain in Hen-



ley's "additional" regiment and aid to Gen. Heath ; and of Samuel Cogswell, Charles Selden and John Barker, three young graduates of this year's class, Lieutenants in Colonel Henry Jackson's Continental battalion, recruited mainly in Boston and vicinity.

In the cavalry—Colonel Sheldon's Second Continental Regiment of Dragoons—we have four officers, namely : the Major, Benjamin Tallmadge, who will make himself as famous as a soldier could wish ; Captains Thomas Young Seymour and Ezekiel Porter Belden, and Quartermaster Samuel Mills. Captain Robert Walker, of Stratford, raised an artillery company and joined the Second Regiment of that arm under Colonel Lamb.

Several graduates were associated with the staff departments. Peter Colt, a public-spirited merchant of New Haven, received the appointment from Congress of Commissary of Purchases for the Eastern States. Nathan Preston was an assistant in the department of issues and supplies. James Davenport, and probably Benjamin Welles and William Little, served for a term in similar capacities in and out of Connecticut. Royall Flint became assistant to Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth, Quartermaster - General at Army Head-quarters. Of brigade-majors—assistant adjutant-generals they would be called to-day—we had a number during the war. Major Ebenezer Gray held this position for a short time early in 1777, in the First Connecticut Brigade, and was succeeded by Captain David Humphreys, for whom more enviable honors were in store. In Rhode Island, William Peck became Adjutant-General of

the troops gathered to watch the enemy who had lately seized Newport.

As to chaplains—where in the previous year each regiment was entitled to one, the number was limited by resolution of Congress, May 27, 1777, to one for each brigade, with a colonel's pay and rations. They were to be nominated to Congress by the generals commanding the brigades, who were enjoined to recommend none but "clergymen of experience, and established public character for piety, virtue, and learning." Yale was represented by at least six chaplains of this grade during the war. The three appointed in 1777-78 were Rev. Timothy Dwight, for Parson's First Connecticut Brigade, the Chaplain for the Second Brigade being the Rev. John Ellis, graduate of Harvard; Rev. David Avery, Fourth Massachusetts Brigade; and Rev. William Plumbe, De Fermoy's Brigade at Ticonderoga. At a later date Rev. Abraham Baldwin succeeded Mr. Dwight, and Rev. William Lockwood and Joel Barlow were appointed in the Massachusetts Line. Revs. Elihu Spencer and James Sproat, of New Jersey, appear as Chaplains to Department Hospitals. Mr. Plumbe, in the fall of 1777, was appointed by General Gates to the hospitals of the Northern Department.

Other graduates rendered service of some kind within the year, either with the militia or as volunteers. Colonel John Brown will add to his laurels in the Saratoga campaign. Colonel John Ashley, Jr., Major Theodore Sedgwick, Captain John Strong, Israel Dickinson, Samuel Ely, and doubtless Enoch and Joshua L. Woodbridge and William Lyman, from

Massachusetts, also turned out at that crisis ; as did Generals Wolcott, Wadsworth and Silliman, Colonel Joshua Porter, Dr. Elisha Sill, Noah Webster, and others from Connecticut. Colonel Jabez Bowen, Captains Ebenezer Mosely, Sanford Kingsbury, Andrew Hillyer, and volunteers William Edmond, John Depeyster Douw and Oliver Wolcott, Jr., were active.<sup>1</sup> James Hillhouse this year became Captain of the New Haven Company of Governor's Foot-Guards, and was thus preparing for the good service he did when the town was invaded by the enemy in 1779.

Active movements on any large scale did not begin until half the year had gone. There was no fighting in the spring and early summer, except what little occurred in the course of skirmishes and expeditions, the most considerable of which was the British foray into Connecticut in April, when Danbury was pillaged. This cost us some public and private property—among other things, sixteen hundred tents, which could ill

<sup>1</sup> AFFAIRS AT THE COLLEGE.—Young Edmond and Wolcott were undergraduates when they volunteered their service. They were at home, as the college had closed temporarily.

Interruptions of the course occurred frequently during the war. There were no public commencements until 1781. College was first dismissed for a few weeks, as stated, in April, 1775. In August, 1776, it was again dismissed, as Fitch says, "on account of the prevalence of the camp distemper." He seems not to have returned until November. "Difficulty of subsisting the students" required another recess from Dec. 10 to Jan. 8, 1777. Again, March 22, '77, Fitch writes in his diary: "This morning the President (Dr. Daggett) made an address to the students, informing them that on account of the impossibility of supplying the College with provisions, it would in a few days be dismissed; and also that he had fully made up his mind to resign the presidency of the College." The students went home about April 1, and did not return to New Haven till the fall. In May-June the Freshman met at Farmington, Sophomores and Juniors at Glastonbury, Seniors at Wethersfield, and continued their studies under their tutors.

Dr. Stiles writes in his diary: "A large class graduated Sept. 10, 1777, and many students entered the army; others left College on account of its broken state and expenses in these tumultuous times . . . The public calamities & tumults affect all the colleges." Further interruptions are referred to in 1778-79.

be spared. But a loss more sensibly felt, especially by the Connecticut people, was that of their senior major-general of militia, who fell mortally wounded in the affair. This was the veteran Wooster, the oldest of our graduates then in the field. His death was in every way a noble one, not only on account of the soldierly qualities he displayed at the time, but peculiarly in view of the happy patriotic temper which had governed him from the outset. Upon his recall from Canada in the spring of 1776 he demanded an investigation at the hands of Congress, and was acquitted of all blame for misfortunes in that quarter. Prejudices, however, existed against him, partly on account of his age, and he was ordered to report to his home, which meant that his services would probably not be required again in the open field. Feeling that this was unmerited treatment, and still having faith in himself, he wrote to Congress that he was ready for duty and abided its commands. The statement made by almost all writers on the Revolution, that he resigned his Continental commission on returning to Connecticut, is erroneous. Resignation would have been a confession of unfitness or lack of public spirit. He did not resign, and at the time of his death he was the senior brigadier in the army. In the meantime Connecticut appointed him Major-General of all the State Militia, and under this commission he was stationed on the Connecticut border, with head-quarters generally at Rye, during the winter of 1776-77. With him on his staff for short periods were three graduates, namely, his son, Thomas Wooster, and Stephen R. Bradley, Aides-de-camp, and

Mark Leavenworth, Secretary and Deputy Adjutant-General.

The Danbury raid occurred April 25th to 28th, the enemy's object being the destruction of stores at that place. Upon the landing of Gen. Tryon with some two thousand British troops off Norwalk, the militia turned out and attacked them on their return. Gens. Arnold and Silliman, Cols. Huntington, Lamb and others were conspicuously active. At Danbury, Col. Joseph P. Cooke, class of 1750, and at Ridgefield, Col. Philip B. Bradley, class of 1758, assisted in harassing the enemy. William Edmond, then a Senior, afterwards Judge of the State Supreme Court, joined in the attack and was severely wounded. Young Oliver Wolcott, a Junior, also turned out as a volunteer. No one, however, displayed more spirit and activity than old General Wooster. The news of Tryon's landing reaching him at New Haven on the 26th. He immediately started for the scene of action, and on the following afternoon, after much riding and little rest, attacked one detachment of the British with a small body of militia. His men giving way, he made every effort to rally them, when he received a mortal wound in the back. He was removed to Danbury, where he expired on the 2d of May, "with great composure and resignation."

Those who observed the general's movements and received his orders after he reached the vicinity of the enemy were impressed with his energy and good management. Arnold, Silliman and Huntington all speak of him in terms of high praise. The *Philadelphia Post*, of May 13, 1777, mentioned him as follows:



"We hear that Gen. Wooster died the third instant, of his wounds in the action of the 27th ult. Although this brave veteran was supposed by some to have outlived his usefulness, yet his spirit and activity shone in this last action of his life with undiminished lustre." Congress voted him a monument, but its resolution has never been carried into effect. The following hitherto unpublished letter from Wooster is one of the last bearing on military matters that he wrote :

" RYE, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1777.

" DR. SIR :—Your favor of the seventh Inst<sup>d</sup> came to hand last night, and for answer I must inform you that I apprehend a descent on Long Island is at present impracticable, as the enemy have in the Sound above thirty Ships and Tenders cruising daily from Fairfield to the Westward—neither have we boats sufficient to cross over in and what is a greater difficulty, the Term for which the troops here were Inlisted expires next Saturday and Home is the word already.

"I have however sent Col<sup>o</sup> Enos to wait on you and to consult what may be done in some future day when these Ships have returned to New York and the Sound not so infested with them, and you may be assured I shall ever cheerfully lend you every assistance in my power, to forward an enterprise which may be of some service to our cause.

"I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir with esteem and respect

"Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

" DAVID WOOSTER.

"The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Brigadier Gen<sup>l</sup> Parsons."

This letter, with Wooster's portrait, sword, and sash, on which he was lifted from the field when wounded, is preserved in the President's Room at the college.

The stirring events of the year occurred in the months of August, September, and October. We had



nothing more interesting in the whole course of the war. It was the year of Burgoyne's surrender, which, following the siege of Boston, Trenton, and Princeton, convinced the country that with continued exertions there could be no question as to the issue. The enemy's campaign plans included the isolation of the New England States, the control of the Hudson and interior lines of communication, and the suppression of resistance to the southward as far as the Potomac. Burgoyne coming down from Canada with seven thousand choice troops was expected, with assistance from New York, to effect the first result ; and Howe, taking Philadelphia and defeating Washington, was confident of success in that direction. The latter's operations were more or less successful. Philadelphia fell into his hands, and Washington was defeated at Brandywine, Sept. 11. On Oct. 4th, Washington partially redeemed himself by his well-planned attack upon the enemy at Germantown, and later withdrew into winter-quarters at Valley Forge.

In these Pennsylvania operations comparatively few graduates participated. No Eastern troops were with the army at Brandywine, with the exception of a portion of the Second Regiment of Light Dragoons, recruited mainly in Connecticut. Benjamin Tallmadge had lately been promoted Major of this corps, and with him may have been Capt. E. P. Belden and Lieutenant Mills, but they were not actually engaged in the battle. At Germantown, however, they were at the front, Tallmadge himself being at the head of Sullivan's column. The First Connecticut Brigade had joined the army by that time and was engaged

under Gen. McDougall on the extreme left. Published accounts of the battle hardly refer to McDougall and one writer, an officer present in the action, asserts that he never reached the field. This is a mistake so far as the Connecticut troops were concerned, as we know from several sources. A letter in the Trumbull collection, written apparently by Col. John Chandler, class of 1759, states that his regiment lost twenty-two and that Col. Bradley's loss was "something more." Other graduates in McDougall's command were Lieut.-Col. Russell, Maj. Gray, Capts. Webb and Munson, and Lieuts. Taylor, Rice, Sill, Judson, Daggett, and Morris. The latter, James Morris, class of 1775, afterwards a well-known citizen of Litchfield, Conn., was taken prisoner at Germantown and has left us an account of his experiences while in the enemy's hands. The following is an extract :

"We encamped between the River Lehigh and Philadelphia, and on the evening of the 3d of October 1777, the army had orders to march. About 6 o'clock, on said evening, the army under the immediate command of General Washington began their march for Germantown. I left my baggage and my bible, which my father bought for me when I was six years old, in my trunk. I marched with only my military suit and my implements of war, without any change of dress or even a blanket. We marched that evening and reached Germantown by break of day, the morning of the 4th, a distance of about 20 miles. The memorable battle of Germantown then commenced. Our army was apparently successful in driving the enemy from their encampment, and victory in the outset seemed to perch on our standards.

"But the success of the day by the misconduct of General Stephens turned against us. Many fell in battle and about 500 of our men were made prisoners of war who surrendered at discretion.

I being in the first company, at the head of our column, that began the attack upon the enemy—consequently I was in the rear in the retreat. Our men then undisciplined were scattered. I had marched with a few men nearly 10 miles before I was captured, continually harassed by the British Dragoons and the light infantry. I finally surrendered to save life with the few men then under my command and marched back to Germantown under a guard.

“Samuel Stannard, my waiter, a strong athletic man, carried my blanket and provisions, with a canteen of whiskey ; he had made his escape, and was not taken. Of course I was left without any refreshment from break of day in the morning through the whole day ; thus I was driven back to Germantown after performing a march of about forty miles from the evening before at six o'clock. I reached Germantown a prisoner of war about sunset fatigued and much exhausted. I was the last officer taken with about twenty men—the rest that had been taken early in the day were conveyed to Philadelphia. The evening of the 4th of October was very cold. I was put under a quarter guard with the few men with me in an open field around a small fire ; no provision was made for the Prisoners ; the men with me had a little food in their knapsacks, but I had none. A little after sundown I was shivering with the cold. I asked the sergeant of the Guard if I might see the Commander of the Regiment ; he informed me that he quartered in such a house about twenty rods distant—the sergeant, who was manly and sympathetic, waited on me to the house, and informed the Commander that there was an American Officer, a prisoner, at the door who wanted to see him. The Colonel said that he would see him after he had done supper. Accordingly I sat down on the stoop before the door, and after sitting about fifteen minutes the Colonel came out and sat down on the stoop with me ; he asked me many questions respecting my motives for going into the war and rising up in rebellion against my lawful sovereign, and I answered him pleasantly and as evasively as I could consistently with decency. He asked me what I wanted. I told him that I was in a suffering condition ; I had no blanket or any covering to shield me from the cold. I wished for liberty to sleep in the house, and that I stood in need of some refreshment. The Colonel ordered his servants to get

me some victuals, and said I might go into the room where they were. I went into the room. The servants very politely spread a table, set on some good old spirits and a broiled chicken well cooked, with excellent bread and other food of the best kind. The servants sat off in the room and waited on me in the best manner. This was really the sweetest meal of victuals that I ever ate. When I had done supper I asked the sergeant who had conducted me there what the Colonel said respecting my lodging in the house.

“The sergeant replied that the Colonel told him that I was not on parole, and that he was not authorized to grant a parole of honor, and that I must go out and be with the guard. I then asked the sergeant if I could be furnished with a blanket for that night. The soldiers who were waiters to the Colonel immediately brought me a large and clean rose blanket, and said it should be for my use that night. I accordingly went out into the field and lay down among the soldiers who were prisoners, wrapped myself in the blanket, kept my hat on my head, and slept sweetly thro the night. Before I lay down the sergeant informed me that he observed that I had a watch in my pocket, and that I had silver knee-buckles ; that if I would give them to his care he would return them to me in the morning, for the soldiers of the guard would probably rob me of them when I was asleep. I accordingly committed them to his safe keeping, who very honorably returned them to me the next morning, it being the 5th of October. The prisoners this day had their allowance of provisions dealt out to them for the day. These were cooked by the soldiers who were prisoners, and I partook with them in one common mess. Near sunset of the 5th the prisoners were ordered to be escorted by a guard to Philadelphia, the distance about six miles. I thus marched on and arrived at the new jail in Philadelphia about eight o'clock in the evening. I was locked into a cold room destitute of every thing but cold stone walls and bare floors ; no kind of a chair to sit on ; all total darkness ; no water to drink or a morsel to eat ; destitute of a blanket to cover me. . . . Morning finally arrived, and at a late hour we were furnished with some very hard sea bread and salted pork, and I was able to obtain some water to drink. Being altogether moneyless, I could purchase nothing for my comfort.

"I pretty soon sold my watch for half its value, and with the money I received for it I was able to procure some food pleasant to my taste. I wholly gave up my allowance of provisions to the poor soldiers. At this time and in this jail were confined 700 prisoners of war, a few small rooms were sequestered for the officers ; each room must contain sixteen men. We fully covered the whole floor when we lay down to sleep, and the poor soldiers were shut into rooms of the same magnitude with double the number. The soldiers were soon seized with the jail fever, as it was called, and it swept off in the course of three months 400 men, who were all buried in one continued grave without coffins ; the length of a man was the width of the grave, lying three deep or one upon another. I thus lived in jail from the 5th of October, 1777, till the month of May, 1778."<sup>1</sup>

At the North the more desperate and vital struggle with Burgoyne had been in progress. Graduates were engaged here as elsewhere. Gen. Paterson and his brigade of four Massachusetts regiments formed about one third of Gates' Continental force, which did the main fighting. In this force were Maj. Hull, who was closely engaged in the battle of Sept. 19th, Major Porter, and Captain Ashley. Captain Thomas Y. Seymour was also there with the only company of Continental Dragoons in Gates' army. As for militia and volunteers such numbers hurried forward at the last moment that probably many names were never enrolled. Among them, for instance, was young Noah Webster, still a Junior at college, who tells us that a large body went from Connecticut. "My father and my two brothers," he writes, "were in the service. I also shouldered a musket and marched as a volunteer, leaving at home no person

<sup>1</sup> From the original MSS. in possession of Hon. Dwight Morris, late Secretary of State of Connecticut, son of James Morris, the Revolutionary officer.



but my mother and a sister to take charge of the farm.”<sup>1</sup> With the force on the Hudson under Gen. Putnam, who endeavored to prevent Clinton from New York from co-operating with Burgoyne, were quite a number of graduates—namely, Col. Wyllys, Lt.-Cols. Sherman and Grosvenor, Maj. Huntington, Capts. Wyllys, Judd, Wooster, Walker, Brigade-Major David Humphreys, Lieuts. Williams, Heart, Alden, Cleaveland, Chipman, Mix, and Barker, all of whom were Continentals. They were doubtless at that time with their regiments. Gens. Wadsworth and Silliman commanded militia under Putnam, and in all probability other graduates marched with them. Gen. Wolcott, with instructions which left him free to report anywhere, pushed on with about three hundred volunteers directly to Gates’ camp, Lieut.-Col. Joshua Porter having preceded him with a State regiment which fought well in the action of Freeman’s Farm, Sept. 19th.

An extract from one of Gen. Wolcott’s letters to Gov. Trumbull, written after Burgoyne had been twice defeated and a few days before his surrender, runs as follows :

“Camp Beames Heights, Oct° 10, 1777.

“SIR :

“I came to this camp the 30 ultimo with a little more than 300 men. The apparent exigency of our affairs in this Department and the probability of affording some useful succour to this army, were, as I observed in my former letter, my Inducements to this undertaking. How far the step which I have taken has been approved of by your Excellency and Council of Safety I have not been told, but as I was directed to afford such aid to this army as I tho’t proper, it was my opinion and the opinion of all

<sup>1</sup> From the same MSS. quoted on page 13. See biographical sketch.



Gentlemen whom I Consulted that the enemy could not be so deeply wounded anywhere as in this quarter, and I am happy to find that the success which has attended our military operations in this department has justified my opinion. . . .

"Our army are on their Front flank, and on the opposite side of the River. Yesterday & in the evening especially the enemy appeared to be in the greatest Confusion and Distress—enviored on every side by our army, their baggage scattered & a good deal of it destroyed by themselves. A great number of their horses are killed on the Road and several Hundred Barrels of Provisions fallen into our hands. Our army the last night lay on their arms to renew the attack this morning. What will be the events of the day, God only knows, but in all probability it will end in at least the total loss of all the enemy's artillery stores & baggage, if not of the greater part of their army. I cannot well conceive of an army being bro't into a worse situation than that of the enemy's. But the fate of it will be fully known in two or three days. May it please a merciful God to grant that the kindest events may take place as it respects ourselves. It is my belief that the events of the campaign in this quarter will open to us the brightest scene, and will involve in it consequences which will fully establish the American Independency—and altho' our affairs put on a disagreeable aspect in other parts yet an aurora borealis from this quarter will dispel the dismal gloom. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

Another letter from the field we have in the following from Capt. Seymour to his father at Hartford. It was written the day after the battle of Freeman's Farm :

"HON<sup>D</sup> SIR :—I now attempt to give a relation of an engagement between the enemy's whole Force and Gen<sup>l</sup> Arnold's Division—it began in the morning of the 19th instant between some Advanced Parties till noon,—soon after which it became general, and an incessant Fire continued the whole day, we obliging the enemy to quit the Field for three times, though they obstinately contended to keep possession of it. The action was Bloody & would undoubtedly have been decided had not the night parted

<sup>1</sup> From the "Wolcott Memorial." Original in Trumbull Papers.

us. In the course of the Day 1,000 were killed of the enemy & 46 taken prisoners, all British troops as they were in front. We lost in the above action 34 killed, 120 wounded & missing. Some officers of distinction were lost on our side, such as two Colonels and some of a less degree. The militia of our State was engaged & behaved bravely. Capt. Wadsworth of Hartford in particular has done himself eternal Honor, tho' I am afraid [the] good man is mortally wounded. One of Mr. Tucker's sons was instantly killed after acting the soldier. Our Tents are all struck, and we momentarily expect to put an end to the Warr in this Department—God grant us success in a day so big with important Events. Gen. Lincoln is in the rear of the enemy, & will disappoint all possible hopes of a retreat; their situation, as I observed in a former letter, is desperate, for they fought as if it was so, yet the Spirit of our Troops & a Consciousness of the Justice of our Cause made us an overmatch for them. The army still continue in spirits and are doubly animated from the late engagement. I still continue to be in health notwithstanding I experience great fatigues.

"I am, &c.,

THOS. Y. SEYMOUR.

"P. S.—Various reports say Gen<sup>l</sup> Burgoyne rec<sup>d</sup> a fatal shot in the action above mentioned—we are this day joined by 200 Indians of the Onoiada Tribe & with the Riflemen are now gone to beat up the enemy's quarters. This letter I hope will be excused, as it was written on my knee under arms.

"Camp advanced of Still Water, Sept. 20, 1777." <sup>1</sup>

We may expect, also, to find Col. John Brown very active in this quarter. Perfectly familiar with the region about Ticonderoga, he undertook, with the approval of Gen. Lincoln, to attack the garrison at that point, and break up Burgoyne's communications. With five hundred men he marched through the woods, "where," as one of his officers says, "man never marched before, except the Indian," and on

<sup>1</sup> From the original among the Trumbull Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

the morning of September 18th surprised the enemy's outer works, including Mount Defiance, and captured stores and prisoners. He failed in succeeding to the utmost of his expectations, but it was a dashing exploit, which added to his reputation. The unknown officer adds : " We were commanded by Col. Brown, a fine officer as ever I saw—good courage and good conduct."

Burgoyne surrendered October 17th. No one appreciated the event more than the soldiers in the field. When Washington heard of it at "Camp Pennybacker's Mills," Pa., he congratulated his army in the warmest terms. Col. Brown also came in for remembrance.

" . . . The Commander-in-Chief," runs a portion of the order, "has further occasion to congratulate the troops on the success of a detachment of the northern army, under Col. Brown, who attacked and carried several of the enemy's posts, and had got possession of several of the old French lines at Ticonderoga.

"Col. Brown, in those severe attacks, has taken 293 prisoners of the enemy, with their arms, retaken more than 100 of our men, and taken 150 batteaux below the fall in Lake Champlain, and 50 above the falls, including 17 gun-boats, and one armed sloop, besides cannon, ammunition, &c.

"To celebrate this success the General orders that at 4 o'clock this afternoon [Oct. 28] all the troops be paraded and served with a gill of rum per man, and that at the same time there be discharges of 13 pieces of artillery from the park."<sup>1</sup>

The troops on the Hudson under Putnam were made equally happy with the news. Says Gen. Silliman, "Fishkill, Oct. 18, 1777, 8 o'clock P.M." :

" . . . On this occasion the whole army was drawn up

<sup>1</sup> Saffell's "Records of the Revolutionary War," p. 343.

under arms and formed into a great square, with the Field Pieces placed on one angle and all the General Officers in the centre mounted on Horse Back; when all the Letters were publicly read, which was followed by a Discharge of 13 Cannon and three loud Huzzas from the whole army on the joyfull Occasion, which seemed almost to rend the air with the noise."<sup>1</sup>

And this from Gen. Scott to Gates, as found in the Gates Papers, New York Historical Society :

"KINGSTON, Oct'r 18th, 11 o'clock, 1777.

"MY DEAR GENERAL !

"How can I sufficiently congratulate you upon the most signal and Consequential Event that has happened this War? an event as glorious to yourself, as it is big with the happy Fortune of America. We just now learn that Sir H. Clinton has come to ab<sup>t</sup> 6 miles below this. The Gov<sup>r</sup> is arrived and his small Body of Troops are full on their March, and are expected here to-morrow Evening. Give me Leave, Sir, to give you a Hint that your good fortune may prove a Trap to Clinton. How would it add to your Trophies to secure him as a prisoner of War. I have too good an opinion of your Generalship to doubt your meeting him in Time—and I am convinced that he intends to push up to Albany without the loss of one moment.

"I am, Dear General,

"Most Respectfully Yours,

"JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

"The Honorable Major-General Gates, &c., &c."

After the surrender Gates' army dispersed, the militia going home and the Continentals returning in part to Washington and in part encamping on and near the Hudson for the winter.

<sup>1</sup> From the Silliman MSS. in possession of Prof. O. P. Hubbard, New York City.



## EVENTS IN 1778-79.

Valley Forge and its Discipline—General Paterson—Alumni in Camp—Letters from Lieuts. Chipman and Selden—Devotion of the Army to Washington—The French Alliance—General Scott to Gates—Battle of Monmouth—Camp at White Plains—Battle of Rhode Island—Notice from the College Steward.

FOLLOWING Germantown and Saratoga came the historic winter at Valley Forge. The traditional and popular picture of a shivering and famished army, huddled in a bleak camp on the banks of the Schuylkill, is hardly overdrawn, and touches the sympathies. But it was a valuable experience. Beyond the actual discomfort and suffering, which at best did not continue over six or eight weeks, one may see the Continental soldier generally in good cheer, his patience and determination commendable, and his devotion to his chief growing deeper and warmer. By spring-time the outlook was more encouraging. Intrigues against Washington had failed as they deserved; Steuben, turning the whole camp into a drill-room, had introduced new tactics and a better discipline; and men forgot their hardships in the inspiring news that France had become their firm ally. There was a schooling of faith and habits at Valley Forge such as the army much needed, and when it moved out for active campaigning in the early summer, it was with a sense of strength not before expe-



rienced, and an air of confidence which, even in gloomy days to come, never wholly forsook it.

Among college men in this camp we meet again with General John Paterson, who had come down with his troops from Saratoga after Burgoyne's surrender. He seems to have been everywhere and always active. Soon after the army was fixed in quarters, he was detailed to superintend a part of the lines, receiving these brief instructions from General Greene, as given in Colonel Febiger's MS. Order-Book :

" VALLEY FORGE, Jan. 20th 1778.

"Gen<sup>l</sup> Patterson is kind enough to undertake the Superintendence of the Fortifications of the Left Wing. All the men not on Duty in the respective Brigades in this Wing are to parade every morning at 9 o'clock to be employed in the Fortifications of the Camp under the Gen<sup>ls</sup> Directions. Each Brigade is to furnish a Field officer to com<sup>d</sup> the Fatigue parties. All officers not upon duty under the rank of a Field officer are to turn out with the men. His Excellency the Com<sup>dr</sup> in Chief Desires the officers to exert themselves to put the Camp in a Defenceable condition as soon as may be."

About twenty-five graduates were identified with the Valley Forge encampment, the others in the service being with troops in winter-quarters on the Hudson and in Connecticut. Among the former we find Cols. Bradley and Chandler, both of whom were frequently appointed on a general court-martial. Other names mentioned in the order-books are—Sherman, "Field-Officer of the day," Jan. 27, 1778; Hull, Feb. 27th; Russell, March 2d. Brigade-Majors Alden and Marvin were there; also Lieuts. Ezra Selden, Flint, Judson, Chipman, Cogswell, Chas. Selden, Barker, Taylor, and doubtless Major Porter,



Capts. Ashley, Munson, Rice, and Webb, Lieuts. Cleaveland, Mix, and others.

Letters from this camp, especially from subordinate officers, are rarities. One or two of Chipman's and Ezra Selden's have been preserved. Chipman, as we have seen, wrote poetry in college, and now he writes it from the field. It was in this strain, for example, that he informed his classmate, Cogswell, in April, 1777, that he had just entered the army :

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*

“But I no more Parnassus tread  
A foolish whim has turned my head,  
The Muse has lost her wonted charms  
And I am rushing on to arms.  
No more I sing of bloody fight,  
But now prepare myself to try't,  
And leave to you the extensive rule  
You've late acquired in Country School ;  
Your whip, your ferrule and your pen,  
And cringing band of pigmy men.  
Yes, you may laugh to see me cased  
In armor, with a cockade graced ;  
Nor will you laugh alone, I warrant,  
At such a doughty huge knight-errant.”<sup>1</sup>

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*

The rigors of Valley Forge failed to repress his aspirations, and when he sat down to describe his surroundings to another classmate, Fitch, in Feb., 1778, it was again in verse :

“Here must we feel the inclement air,  
Bear all the unequalled toils of war ;  
Meet hardships in a thousand forms,  
Now scorch'd with heat, now drenched with storms.

<sup>1</sup> This and other extracts from “Memoir of Judge Chipman.”

With cold and want maintain the strife—  
Such are the ills of martial life.

\* \* \* \* \*

And now, my friend, come view the plain,  
Deformed with mangled heaps of slain ;  
See here by deadly wounds subdued,  
Thousands still weltering in their blood.  
Their country's glory was their all,  
For her they fought, for her they fall.  
Oh grant, kind Heaven, these scenes may end,  
And peace her olive-branch extend,  
In freedom this fair land be blest,  
Nor Britain more our right contest."

Again Chipman writes, April 10, 1778, to still another member of his class, Elisha Lee, but this time in good strong prose. The letter confirms the usual statement that the officers of Washington's main army were devotedly loyal to him at the time the Conway Cabal sought to depreciate his services and supplant his authority :

"I learn that it is a common topic of conversation in Connecticut, and, indeed, through New England, that General Washington will not fight. 'Let Gates,' say they, 'take the command, and we shall see an end of the war.' General Gates has done well ; he has done gloriously ; I have as high a sense of his merit as any man. But the truth is, Burgoyne failed himself, and Gates conquered him. Besides, Gates was in a situation to command what assistance he pleased, and that the flower of the continent. What shall we say of Washington here at the head of fifteen, or at most twenty thousand men, for his army never exceeded that number, and one third of them Pennsylvania militia, who for the most part never dared to face an enemy. I have seen when our regiment was closely engaged, and almost surrounded, seven hundred of them quit the field without firing a gun. On the seventh of December, the army of the enemy, exclusive of those left to garrison Philadelphia, and the neighboring posts, amounted to eleven

thousand effective men. From this you may judge of their strength at the opening of the campaign. There is not another State on the continent where so many traitors are to be found, as in this, and yet General Washington baffled all the stratagems of a wary, politic, and experienced general, and has several times fought him not unsuccessfully. All General Gates has done does not render it even probable, that in General Washington's situation he would not have been totally defeated. The army, to a man, except those who conquered under Gates, have the highest opinion of General Washington. They love, I had almost said, they adore him. While *he* lives, be assured, they will never brook the command of another."

Two other letters referring to current military affairs of the year are from Ezra Selden, of Lyme, Adjutant of the First Connecticut, a young man of much promise, who, as Captain, will distinguish himself in the following summer. One was written from Valley Forge, the other after Monmouth. Both are addressed to an old acquaintance, Dr. Mather, an elderly physician of Lyme :

" VALLEY FORGE, May 15, 1778.

" SIR :

" Agreeable to your desire I do myself the honor of writing you, though nothing material occurs.

" The welcome news which Mr. Dean brought us from Europe gave great joy to our army—his Excellency Directed three Foe de Joys, One for y<sup>e</sup> Thirteen United States, One for France and one for our Friendly European powers. After Dismissing the Soldiery He Directed the assembling of the Officers of the whole army and entertained them with as good a Dinner as could under our Situation in the Field be provided, after which they were served with Wine &c.,—at the same time his Excellency gave the Toasts which were Proclaimed by his aid de Camp who ascended a high Step for that Purpose. After a sufficient merriment his Excellency retired, Desiring the Officers to be very attentive to their Duty as the Intelligence which he had rece<sup>d</sup> required it.

"Our Army is at present very busy and intent upon a New mode of Exercise Pointed by Major General Baron Stuben from Poland.

"His knowledge in Discipline is very great, his method of manuvering is very Different, but mostly satisfactory; he never informs what is to be Done in future; but gives Lessons and we Practice until he gives new Directions; he allows no musick while we are manuvering, or does he ever allow us to be steping upon our Posts, but at the word march to step right off, and always with the left foot. Our manual Exercise as yet continues the same, excepting in the Charging the Bayonet.

"By the best information I can collect the Enemy are about leaving Philadelphia. Inhabitants & Deserters inform us that they have their Heavy artillery on Board their Shipping—reports also are that they will attack us Prior to their leaving the City. Reports are Reports. Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe has not sailed for England unless within 3 or 4 days. Our Incampment is strongly fortified and Piqueted. I have no suspicions that we shall be attacked in Quarters.

"There is a very Different Spirit in the army to what there was when I left it [on furlough]; the Troops considerably well cloathed, but then their cloathing which they have lately Received is such as ought to have been worn last winter, not this summer.

"Gen<sup>l</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh is appointed to the Command of Fort Pitt and the Back settlements, &c.

"I am content should they Remove almost any General Except his Excellency. The Country even Congress are not aware of the Confidence the army Places in him, or motions would never have been made for Gates to take the Command.

"Our army have not yet taken the field nor do I suspect it very shortly. Two Regiments are ordered into Tents as being sickly. The Army in Gen<sup>l</sup> is not very sickly.

"I am, kind Sir, with Compliments to Miss Mather, your hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

"EZRA SELDEN.

"Doct. Samuel Mather,

"Lyme, Conn."

<sup>1</sup> This letter, and the one from White Plains of Aug. 11th, from the original in possession of Mr. H. M. Selden, Haddam Neck, Conn.

This interesting letter is supplemented by one from John Morin Scott to Gates, which doubtless reflected the satisfaction of the people at large with the terms of the French treaty. Scott, who was now Secretary of State for New York, seems to have been a warm friend and admirer of Gates, but we have no hint in the letter that he would have approved his substitution for Washington in the chief command of the army, as the Conway clique proposed. He writes :

“ HURLEY [near Kingston, N. Y.], May 16th, 1778.

“ DEAR GENERAL :

“ When I was last at Fish Kill I waited two days in expectation of your arrival, but was unfortunately disappointed of the pleasure of seeing you.

\* \* \* \* \*

“ I congratulate you on the present promising aspect of our affairs. How often have we had reason since our present conflict to say ‘The dawn is overcast—the morning lowers.’ But now, thanks to a kind providence, we have reason to hope that the bright sunshine of peace, established Liberty & prosperity, both public & private, will speedily shine upon us ; that e’er long we shall be able to sit down under our own vines and Fig trees, recounting with delight our doubtful tho’ successful struggles for Liberty, and have none to make us afraid.

“ Our Treaty with France has, I think, been wisely concerted on our part ; and exhibits a degree of Generosity and disinterestedness on the part of France, which was hardly to be expected from a Court grown old in Intrigues, and remarkably sedulous in securing advantages by Negotiation. I wait with Impatience to hear further about the expected arrival of Commissioners from the Court of London. Their errand, if founded on the two Bills we have seen, will doubtless be unsuccessful. A meer *Nolimus taxere*, a repeal of certain detestable acts, and a tender of pardon, the acceptance of which would necessarily imply guilt, must be very unsavory to the American Taste, especially after an

acknowledgment of our Independence by one of the first powers in Europe.

"I hope we shall be stronger than ever, both in Council and in the Field. This Summer will require, in my opinion, a greater strength of Head & arm than any we have passed since the commencement of the controversy. I wish you all imaginable Health and Happiness.

"I am,

"Dear General,

"With the utmost sincerity and respect,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

"Honorable Major General Gates."¹

The principal event of the year was the battle of Monmouth, fought June 29th. Abandoning Philadelphia, the enemy marched up through New Jersey to New York. Washington broke up camp at Valley Forge and followed in pursuit. His advance overtook the British rear, and some sharp fighting took place, resulting decidedly to the advantage of the Americans. The action lacked completeness, as but small portions of either army were engaged. Among graduates present were probably the greater part of those mentioned as being in the Valley Forge encampment. Paterson, Russell, Sherman, Hull, the two Seldens, Chipman, Taylor, Cogswell, Alden, are known to have been on the field. Col. Russell for a time commanded Varnum's brigade, which was closely engaged. With many others he was all but overcome by the great heat of the day and the much marching and countermarching his brigade was required to do.

After the battle Washington continued his march northward, and crossing the Hudson, went into camp

¹ From the original in the Gates Papers, New York Historical Society.



at White Plains, where he remained through the summer and fall. The army here was the largest Continental force ever assembled at one point or united under his immediate command. It seems to have impressed the British with its strength and condition, as they made no attempt to force it into a pitched battle. Most of our Continental graduates then in the field, about forty in number, were to be found in this camp. Fifteen or twenty more, including several in State service, were on duty at other points.<sup>1</sup>

From this camp we hear again from Adjutant Selden, as follows :

“ WHITE PLAINS, August 11, 1778.

“ SIR :

“ Yours of the 25th of July came safe to hand by Mr. Burnham, which at that time I had not leisure to return you my thanks for.

“ Our army continues their post at White Plains, keeping strong Guards Posted between 3 and 4 miles advanced of our Front. Large Detachments are kept constantly advanced of our guards, near the Enemies lines ; and it is not seldom that our Scouts come athwart theirs. It so happened the other day that Two parties were taking possession of an Eminence ; they met on the Summit ; both being surprised, they exchanged a few rounds by way of compliment : The Enemy retired but carried off their dead and wounded if any. We received no damage.

“ A Corps of Light Infantry is now forming by draughts from the several Battalions, which with a junction of Col. Grahams Militia, will compose a body of about 1500 or 1600. This Corps is intended to be officered with the best partisan officers, Commanded by Brigadier General Scott, from Virginia, the intention of which is to preserve the safety and ease of the army, and to be in greater readiness to attack or repel the Enemy. This Corps

<sup>1</sup> Nearly all the graduates named as having joined the new Continental army early in 1777 continued with it for four years, when a reduction in the Lines took place. The number remained about the same, as recent graduates entered the service where others fell out.

will be constantly in front of the Army, and will in a great measure prevent the unnecessary Fatigue of the Troops, by Detachments for Scouts.

"These Draughts to continue in this Corps until the Light Infantry of ye army shall be arranged, agreeable to the New establishment ordered by Congress. For the completion of which a Committee from Congress is hourly expected.

"The Tryal of Maj<sup>r</sup> General Lee, proves of very long duration as it is not yet over; he has thrown in his defence in Writing. But I fancy his satyrical turns (of which he is master) upon particular gentlemen will be only verbal. I am informed he affects to treat some officers with Great Neglect.

"Maj<sup>r</sup> General Lincoln has arrived at Head Quarters and taken Command. We hourly expect important News from Rhode Island.

"You may Depend on my endeavoring to pen for you everything which I shall deem worthy your attention, either for information or Diversion.

"Must Conclude with wishing you & yours prosperity and Friendship with

"E. SELDEN.

"N. B.—My Compliments to Mrs. Mather & Miss Alice.

"Doc<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Mather, Lyme, Connecticut."

On August 29th occurred what is known as the battle of Rhode Island, the only military event in the year of any consequence after Monmouth. Gen. Sullivan, commanding in that quarter, attempted, with the assistance of a French fleet, to dislodge the enemy from Newport. In this he failed, but an engagement took place at Quaker Hill, about twelve miles north of the town, in which our troops fought well and repulsed the enemy. The brunt of the action was sustained by two Continental brigades which Washington had detached from his camp at White Plains. One of the regiments was Col. S. B.

Webb's, among whose officers, as already stated, there were several young graduates, namely : Major Huntington, Captains Wyllys, Williams, Walker, possibly Wooster, and Lieutenant Welles. With Col. H. Jackson's Massachusetts regiment were Lieutenants Cogswell, C. Selden, and Barker. Maj. Peck was Sullivan's assistant adjutant-general. Maj. Porter and Capt. Ashley were also there ; and it would appear that all of them took part in the battle. Jackson's regiment was complimented on its good behavior. These officers remained in Rhode Island about a year after this, and then returned with their commands to Washington's army on the Hudson. Peck continued on duty at Providence until the fall of 1781.

Later in the year Washington's army went into winter-quarters at points in Connecticut, New Jersey, and in the Highlands. The situation at the college is indicated in the following advertisement in the Connecticut papers :

"The Steward of Yale-College hereby requests the Parents and Guardians of the Students to assist in furnishing a supply of Provisions ; without which it will be very difficult if not impracticable for him to subsist the Scholars the ensuing winter. A generous and full Price shall be allowed and paid either in Money, or their Sons' Quarter Bills, as shall be most agreeable

"YALE COLLEGE, *Sept.* 30, 1778."





## EVENTS IN 1779-80.

Short Commons at College—Letters from Commissary Colt—Yale Loyalists—Gen. Silliman and Judge Jones—Storming of Stony Point—Sherman, Hull, Selden—Invasion of New Haven—Ex-President Daggett and the Students—Maj. Huntington Complimented—Death of Col. Russell.

THIS was the year of the storming of Stony Point and the enemy's invasion of New Haven and other Connecticut towns. Both events made a stir—the former as illustrating the possibilities of the Continental soldier when well disciplined and well led ; and the latter as being apparently an unmilitary and useless move, more hurtful in its moral effect to the British than in actual damage to the Americans. What with Sullivan's expedition against the Western Indians, Harry Lee's surprise of Paulus Hook, and minor operations in the South, the account for the year closed quite in our favor.

At the college there were serious interruptions again. The students had been dismissed on account of short commons in December previous, and were not recalled for two months. President Stiles, on February 2, 1779, appealed to Gov. Trumbull for a supply of flour, and it was only on his assurance that it should be forthcoming that the college was assembled on the 18th. On the next day the president informed the governor of the fact as follows :

“ Encouraged by your Favor of the 3d inst., I have suffered

the students to return & yesterday set up College orders, the Steward having got some flour for a beginning in setting up Commons. . . . This waits upon your Excellency praying that you would be pleased to favor us with an order or Permit directed to Col. Fitch or Mr. Colt for supplying the Steward with flour to the amount of fifty barrels if necessary.”<sup>1</sup>

A still longer break will occur in the summer and fall in consequence of the New Haven raid, but the lack of supplies was generally the main reason for the frequent closing of the college. In fact, from this time to the end of the war it became more and more difficult to obtain supplies of any kind either for the army or the population. “At one time,” says Noah Webster “goods were so scarce that the farmers cut corn stalks and crushed them in cider mills, and then boiled the juice down to a syrup, as a substitute for sugar.” Assistant Commissary Royall Flint, of the class of 1773, found it almost impossible, as he will tell us, to provide flour enough for the troops at Morristown in 1780. Col. Chauncey Whitteley, class of 1764, Purchasing Clothier for Connecticut, was this year paying thirteen dollars per pair for good shoes, and from ten to twelve dollars for stockings, while his classmate, Col. Peter Colt, Deputy Commissary-General of Purchases for the Eastern Department, was hard at work trying to keep the soldiers’ ration up to the regulation amount. On this point we have two letters from Colt, written to General Gates, then commanding the Department, which have their interest.

The first is as follows :

<sup>1</sup> From the original in the Trumbull Papers, Mass. Historical Society.



" HARTFORD, Feb'y 12—79.

" HON<sup>L</sup> M. GENERAL GATES :

" *Sir*—From the most exact survey of our stores, find we have a much *better* supply of *Meat* this season than last, & a much *worse* supply of *Flour*.

" The Troops at Providence & other posts under command of General Sullivan, are the best supplied of any in my department, & *their stock* will not more than subsist them till May. General Putnam & General McDougall are much worse supplied—no Flour can be brought from the Southard for our Relief until June.—

" The Farmers, in State of N. York have sold nearly their whole stock of *old wheat*—their new crops are scanty & almost universally witholden ; tho we give Eight Doll<sup>s</sup> pr bushel for wheat, & Twenty two & half Doll<sup>s</sup> pr b<sup>l</sup> for Flour.—The transportation has been so very bad the whole of this winter, and will doubtless remain bad till May, that we can't remove much Flour Eastward were we in present possession of it. Under these circumstances think it necessary to lessen the quantity of Bread issued to the Troops to a pound pr Man pr diem & where there is no Rice to deliver in lieu of Flour, to deliver meat instead agreeable to the former Rations. If this meets with your approbation, your Honour will please give such orders to the Issuing Department as will authorize them to comply with this request—I am fully convinced that Dutchess & W<sup>t</sup> Chester Counties, where my whole dependance for Flour lies, will not produce more than half as much as I got last year.

" I am your Honour's

" Most respectfull hum. Servt.,

" PETER COLT,

" D.C.G.P." <sup>1</sup>

The second letter concerns the ration of rum which our revolutionary fathers considered as much of an essential as meat or flour. In this they kept up the practice of the British army to which they had been accustomed themselves in the French and Indian war. This letter is also to Gates.

<sup>1</sup> This and the letter following from the originals among the Gates Papers, New York Historical Society.



“ WETHERSFIELD, June 16, '79.

“ SIR :

“ By Letters from Miller and Tracy, my assistants at Boston find they have your Honour's orders for such Quantities of Rum as Mr. Southwick may think proper to call on them for—He has requested them to send forward weekly Ten hhd. of N. E. & eight of W. I. Rum—that quantity will cost upwards of £13,000 pr week—a sum much beyond my abilities to furnish for that particular purpose, & is upwards of 8,500 gills pr day.

“ The proportion of W<sup>h</sup> Ind. Rum is much greater than is used at the main army.

“ As it will be utterly impossible for me in the present state of the currency, to keep up that supply of spirits, even of the poorest kind, I must request your Honour's direction that a Less Quantity be issued to the Troops, & that a great proportion of what is delivered the troops may be common Rum—I would wish to make every kind of supplies in the fullest manner, & in *kind* to the satisfaction of the army, whose pay and subsistence is but indifferent : but it is out of my power. Congress cannot furnish money sufficient for the purpose.

“ I have the Honour

“ to be, with great Respect

“ Your most Obt. hum. Ser.

“ PETER COLT,

“ D.C.G.

“ Hon. M. General Gates.”

Colonel Colt was engaged from 1777 to the end of the war with the exacting duties of his important office. His name is not familiar even to close readers of our revolutionary history, for the reason that the heads of the subsistence departments are seldom mentioned in the published correspondence of the time. Such men as Colonel Hugh Hughes of New York, Colonel Ephraim Blaine of Pennsylvania, and others, whose services in providing for the needs of the army were great, are comparatively unknown to

us. Colt was one of these almost forgotten powers who helped to keep the Continental soldier alive.

In common with all the colleges Yale had among her graduates a small proportion of Tories. Some of them assumed a neutral attitude and remained in more or less seclusion at their homes in different parts of New England and New York. A few became pronounced royalists and attained prominence on the other side. Such was Edmund Fanning, of the class of 1757, who received the colonelcy of a Provincial corps in New York, and who, after the war, was appointed successively Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, Governor of Prince Edward's Island, and Brigadier-General in the British Army. John Peters, class of 1759, appeared as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Queens Loyal Rangers, organized in Canada, and fought under Burgoyne down to the evening before the surrender, when, with the other Provincial officers and men, he received permission to attempt an escape from camp and succeeded. The few graduates who were clergymen of the English Church were, almost without exception, loyalists; Bishop Seabury, class of 1748, for example, and the Rev. Luke Babcock, class of 1755. Mr. Babcock's case is noticeable in view of the fact that his father and two brothers, all graduates, were prominent "rebels"; although as to divisions in households, it may be mentioned that Heathcote Muirson, an ardent young graduate of the class of 1776, who, as a volunteer, took part in some successful enterprises, and finally fell mortally wounded in the American cause, was the only "rebel" member of a well-known loyalist family on Long Isl-

and. Probably the most bitter of our Tory graduates was Judge Thomas Jones, of the class of 1750. Birth, connections, judicial position, and church ties combined to make him a strict monarchist and ministerialist in politics and an aristocrat in society. Personally he was eminently respectable. The Revolution, however, worked his ruin. He seems to have had an instinctive hate for the movement, and he denounced it vigorously and publicly. When hostilities opened on Long Island in the summer of 1776, Washington ordered his arrest and removal to Connecticut as a disaffected person, whose presence in the vicinity of the two armies could not be permitted. Released on parole in December following, he returned to his home at Fort Neck on Long Island, but was again seized as a prisoner in 1779 and finally exchanged in 1780. In 1781 he sailed for England, where he remained until his death. His losses and trials preying upon his sensitive nature, he seems to have sought relief in part by writing a history of the American Revolution from his own standpoint. This work, which has been published within a few years, is curious and interesting, but singularly replete with grave misstatements and prejudiced opinions. Nothing shows the intensity of the Judge's feelings more than his denunciation of his Alma Mater, which he describes as "a nursery of sedition, of faction, and republicanism"—"a college remarkable for its persecuting spirit, its republican principles, its intolerance in religion and its utter aversion to Bishops and all Earthly Kings." This, on the whole, is good evidence of the steadfast and generous support Yale gave to the Revolution.

The case of Judge Jones recalls the mishap that befell General Silliman in May of this year. The General was entrusted with the guard of the western end of the Connecticut coast, with head-quarters at his home on Holland Hill, two miles north of Fairfield. Being a vigilant officer, especially disliked by refugees and loyalists, a whale-boat party on Long Island determined to effect his capture. Crossing the Sound on the evening of the 1st of May, they broke into his house about midnight and carried him off to the enemy, with whom he remained a prisoner for a year. As the Americans had no one in their possession at that time whom the British would exchange for General Silliman, it was proposed to recapture Judge Jones much in the same way that the General had been seized, and offer him in exchange. The plan succeeded. The Judge was taken at his house on Long Island on the evening of the 6th of November following, and on the 28th of April, 1780, the exchange between the two graduates, old college mates, was effected—the General for the Judge. The General received a very warm welcome from his townsmen on his return home.

In the spring of this year also, the enemy captured David Bushnell, inventor of the torpedo, and Jabez H. Tomlinson, then a Junior in college, who was visiting near Stratford, but both were soon released as civilians. Upon graduation Tomlinson entered the service. It was to him that André gave the pen-portrait of himself which is now in the college library.

Military plans and operations in the North in 1779

centred in a certain sense on Stony Point. From the unpublished correspondence of Sir Henry Clinton, then the British commander-in-chief at New York, it would appear that an effort was to be made in the summer of this year to draw Washington out of his impregnable position at West Point, and compel him to fight in the open field. With this in view, Clinton moved up the Hudson, and on the 31st of May occupied the strong post of Stony Point at King's Ferry, which, with Verplank's Point opposite on the east side, commanded what was known as the short line of communication between the New England and Middle States. Its severance at that point Clinton imagined might have the effect of bringing Washington down to dispute its possession with him. Washington, with his inferior force, declined the challenge, and Clinton, leaving ample garrisons at both Stony and Verplank's Points, returned to New York to await reinforcements expected from England. Upon their arrival, he proposed to strike into New Jersey and again cut Washington's supply line, either at Middlebrook or even Easton, Pennsylvania. With King's Ferry also in his hands, the British commander felt confident that the distressed American army—New England having been drained of provisions—would be forced to attack him in New Jersey to restore its southern communications. This would bring about the desired campaign in a more open country.

Finding that the main body of the enemy had returned to New York, Washington determined to attempt the capture of the isolated garrisons left at



King's Ferry. As in the previous year, he organized a corps of light infantry to cover his front and be ready to act on an emergency at the shortest notice. It consisted of four battalions—in all some fifteen hundred men and officers—under the command of General Wayne. By careful selection of the best soldiers from every regiment in the army and the choice of the most experienced officers, it was made a thoroughly trustworthy body from whose prowess in the field something might be expected. Two of the battalions were organized from the New England lines, and in these we may expect to find a few of our graduates. The rolls indicate that six or more served with the corps at different times during the season, namely, Lieut.-Colonel Isaac Sherman, Major William Hull, and Captains Ezra Selden, Theophilus Munson, Nehemiah Rice, and Nathaniel Webb. With the exception of Hull they belonged to the Connecticut battalion, commanded by Colonel Meigs. All were old soldiers. Sherman, the second in command, was a veteran of the siege of Boston, the New York campaign, Trenton, Princeton, Germantown (?), Valley Forge, and Monmouth. In addition, he had served with the light infantry in the previous year under Gen. Charles Scott. The captains could also show a fine record. Major Hull was honored for a time with the command of the Massachusetts battalion, composed of the seven light companies of Paterson's and Bailey's brigades at West Point. Sherman, Hull, and all the field officers of Wayne's Corps were selected by Washington himself ; and there can be little doubt that at the time of their selection



he had in mind the difficult and hazardous service they were afterwards called upon to perform—the assault upon the enemy's garrison at Stony Point.

This storming of Stony Point was confessedly a brilliant piece of work. British officers themselves had words of high praise for it. The point assaulted was a rugged promontory jutting into the Hudson at the southern bend of Haverstraw Bay, formed by nature for successful defence, and held at the time by nearly six hundred regulars, protected by guns, works, and abatis. On the evening of July 15th, Wayne and his infantry approached it silently, and dividing into two columns, moved to the assault at midnight. With such courage, firmness, rapidity, and exact observance of orders did the assailants push up the steep rock on opposite sides, that in precisely half an hour, in spite of the sharp fire poured upon them by the enemy, they had carried the works and forced the garrison to surrender. Guns, prisoners, and stores were taken, but the moral effect of the exploit was still more valuable in greatly increasing the confidence of the Continental army in itself and in compelling some wholesome respect from the enemy.

Sherman, Hull, Selden, and Munson were in the thick of this attack. Several officers were wounded, but none as seriously as Selden. He was struck in the back by a musket-ball, which was soon extracted, and he remained in the service to the end of the war; but he never fully recovered from the injury, and finally died from its effects in 1784. His comrades in the army remembered him with affection and respect as an officer of merit and a man of high prom-

ise. When Selden retired from the infantry Capt. Rice took his place, and Munson, at a later date, was relieved by Webb. It is worth while also to notice here the feelings of indignation unexpectedly excited among a number of the officers of the corps in consequence of Wayne's failure to mention them, as they deserved, in his official report to Washington. Sherman and Hull, and Majors Murfree and Posey, two officers from the South, felt themselves slighted and insulted. Posey and Sherman wrote so pointedly to Wayne that he considered his personal honor involved, and hinted at the reparation due a soldier and a gentleman ; but both officers disclaimed any imputation upon his military character or sense of justice, and the matter went no further. That Sherman's feelings were deeply wounded appears from the following extract from his letter to Wayne :

"There appears, in the account you have given, evident marks of a State partiality, all distinctions of which kind I detest, and ardently wish they may be for ever banished from the mind of every friend to his country. They have a tendency to lay a foundation for future broils ; for when once a man is sensibly injured, if he is possessed of the least feeling, he doth not soon forget it. Why cannot we consider ourselves as one, and walk hand in hand like brethren ? Are we not embarked in the same cause, and does not our independence rest on our united efforts ? But rather than be injured, rather than be trampled upon and considered as insignificant beings in the scale, *my blood boils at the thought, Nature recoils, and points out a mode, the only one of redress.*

"I am not anxious to have my name transmitted to publick view ; neither do I think any thing can be said of me more than barely attending to duty. I am not writing for myself ; but I feel for those officers under my command, as well as others, who merit as much as those most distinguished by you.

"Duty, separate from the ties of friendship, is sufficient to in-

duce me to acquaint you with the sentiments and uneasiness of many officers under your command, which, perhaps, is more extensive than you may imagine. It is still in your power to place things in their proper channel, to gain our affection and confidence, and then, when called into the field, inspired by your example, animated with a desire of crowning you with fresh laurels, every thing will conspire to induce us to play the man.”<sup>1</sup>

Wayne, however, was too brave and generous a soldier to indulge in wilful injustice to his comrades, and when he heard of the displeasure referred to, and before receiving any letters, he wrote to the President of Congress, regretting the omission in his first report of “the names of Lieut-Col. Sherman, Majors Hull, Murphy, and Posey, whose good Conduct and Intrepidity justly entitled them to that attention.”

The second event of the year was the invasion of New Haven. This has been regarded as a merely predatory expedition on the part of the British, fitted out for the destruction of ships and boats in the Connecticut harbors, the seizure of cattle, and the plundering and burning of towns. But we must credit Clinton with having had an ulterior design in the case which might justify the harsh diversion. It was probably never known to that generation of Americans that he hoped, by the show of a general onset along the Connecticut coast, to induce Washington to move into that State for its protection, and there push him to a decisive action. It was the same object he had in view in the seizure of King’s Ferry, on the Hudson, and the same he proposed to effect in New Jersey, at a later date, with the promised reinforcements. But Washington again showed

<sup>1</sup> The letter appears in full in Dawson’s “Assault on Stony Point,” Appendix.

himself Clinton's superior. He "protected" Connecticut by storming Stony Point. While neither commander knew what project the other was meditating in those early July days, it did happen that the moment Clinton heard of the loss of his King's Ferry garrison he instantly ordered his troops and the fleet in the Sound, which was to extend its havoc to New London, to proceed up the Hudson to recover the captured post. His plans had again miscarried.

The "invasion" occurred July 5th, and with it we associate several familiar incidents, such as the rallying of the students, with others, for the defence of the town, and the patriotic conduct of ex-President Daggett. The enemy landed near Savin Rock, and marched through West Haven, where they were met by small bodies of militia. Among the first to encounter them was a company under Capt. James Hillhouse, class of 1773, with students as volunteers, who are credited with excellent behavior before the red-coats.<sup>1</sup> Col. S. B. Webb, of Wethersfield, in reporting the attack to a friend, said: "The enemy, about 2,000, under the infamous Gov. Tryon, have been at New Haven. They took possession of the town on Monday last, there being only about 100 of the militia to oppose them. The young men of the town and the collegians behaved gallantly—fought them as long as it could be of service."<sup>2</sup> (As

<sup>1</sup> A full account of the attack was published in New Haven, in 1879, by Capt. Charles Hervev Townshend in a pamphlet entitled "The British Invasion of New Haven, Conn.," etc. It includes interesting extracts from Dr. Stiles' diary, and much valuable information from other sources.

<sup>2</sup> From the "Reminiscences of Gen. Samuel B. Webb," by his son, the late Gen. James Watson Webb, of New York. Privately printed.

to President Daggett, perhaps the most interesting account of the part he took in the affair is that contributed to Sprague's "*Annals of the American Pulpit*," by Hon. Elizur Goodrich, class of 1779, who was engaged in the skirmishing himself. He says :

"On the evening of the 4th of July, 1779, a force of twenty-five hundred men, which had previously sailed from New York, landed in the south part of West Haven, a parish of New Haven, about five miles from the centre of the town. College was, of course, broken up, and the students, with many of the inhabitants, prepared to flee on the morrow into the neighboring country. To give more time for preparation, and especially for the removal of goods, a volunteer company of about a hundred young men was formed, not with the expectation of making any serious stand against such a force, but simply of retarding or diverting its march. In common with others of the students, I was one of the number, and I well remember the surprise we felt the next morning, July 5th, as we were marching over West Bridge towards the enemy, to see Dr. Daggett riding furiously by us on his old black mare, with his long fowling-piece in his hand ready for action. We knew the old gentleman had studied the matter thoroughly, and satisfied his own mind as to the right and propriety of fighting it out ; but we were not quite prepared to see him come forth in so gallant a style to carry his principles into practice. Giving him a hearty cheer as he passed, we turned down towards West Haven, at the foot of the Milford Mills, while he ascended a little to the west, and took his station in a copse of wood, where he seemed to be reconnoitring the enemy, like one who was determined to 'bide his time.' As we passed on towards the south we met an advanced guard of the British, and taking our stand at a line of fence, we fired upon them several times, and then chased them the length of three or four fields as they retreated, until we suddenly found ourselves involved with the main body, and in danger of being surrounded. It was now our turn to run, and we did for our lives. Passing by Dr. Daggett in his station on the hill, we retreated rapidly across West Bridge, which was instantly taken down by persons who stood



ready for the purpose to prevent the enemy from entering the town by that road. In the meantime Dr. Daggett, as we heard the story afterwards, stood his ground manfully, while the British columns advanced along the foot of the hill, determined to have the battle himself as we had left him in the lurch, and using his fowling-piece now and then to excellent effect, as occasion offered, under the cover of the bushes. But this could not last long. A detachment was sent up the hill-side to look into the matter, and the commanding officer, coming suddenly, to his great surprise, on a single individual in a black coat, blazing away in this style, cried out: 'What are you doing there, you old fool, firing on His Majesty's troops?' '*Exercising the rights of war,*' says the old gentleman. The very audacity of the reply, and the mixture of drollery it contained, seemed to amuse the officer. 'If I let you go this time, you rascal,' says he, 'will you ever fire again on the troops of His Majesty?' '*Nothing more likely,*' said the old gentleman, in his dry way. This was too much for flesh and blood to bear, and it is a wonder they did not put a bullet through him on the spot. However, they dragged him down to the head of the column, and . . . drove him before them at mid-day under the burning sun, round through Westville, about five miles into the town, pricking him forward with their bayonets when his strength failed, and when he was ready to sink to the ground from utter exhaustion. . . ."

Further facts connected with the invasion appear in the sketches of Dr. Daggett, Goodrich, Williston, and John Hotchkiss. The latter, a graduate of thirty years' standing, was killed early in the day.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Upon the landing of the enemy President Stiles dismissed the students, and those who did not go out to fight retired into the country. Chancellor Kent, then a Sophomore, states in his "Autobiography" (N. Y. Genealog. Record, Jan., 1873) that he went to a neighboring village and read Blackstone's commentaries. He was so inspired by the work that he there "fondly determined to be a lawyer." In his Phi Beta Kappa address, delivered at New Haven many years later, he gives some interesting recollections (in notes) of Tryon's raid.

In formally dismissing the students by advertisement Aug. 5th, Dr. Stiles says: "Such is the dangerous situation of the Town of New Haven that it is not judged expedient to call the Undergraduate Classes together again this quarter. It is, however, recommended to the scholars to apply themselves dili-



That New Haven was not burned by the enemy is sometimes explained by the fact that Col. Edmund Fanning, one of our loyalist graduates already referred to, accompanied Tryon on the expedition, and interposed in behalf of the college. In a letter credited to him, written in 1789, he says :

"I still retain a fond remembrance and tender affection for that well regulated seminary of religion and learning, where, under the Doctor's tuition [in 1753-55, when Dr. Stiles was Tutor], I made such progress in my academical instruction as has facilitated greatly those instances of distinction and success with which I have since been honoured by my Royal Sovereign and his people, and it is no small satisfaction to me in the hour of public tranquillity to reflect that amid the Ravages of Civil War, and without injury or infidelity to the service in which I was employed, I had my well-meant share in averting, in the moment of impending ruin, its utter destruction. May Guardian Angels still preserve it, and to the latest desirable period of his life may my Reverend and learned friend Dr. Stiles continue to be its principal, its ornament and well merited pride and glory." <sup>1</sup>

Col. S. B. Webb's Continental Regiment has been referred to as quite a Yale Corps. It was at this date still in Rhode Island, where we last heard of it in the action of Aug. 29, 1778. As the colonel was a prisoner, and the lieut.-colonel had been absent for over a year, Major Huntington was, and continued to be for some time, its commanding officer. That it was regarded as a fine regiment appears from one of Hamilton's reports ; but the most appreciative

gently to the studies of their respective Classes under the best Tuition they can find until God in his Providence may permit them to be peaceably reassembled at this seat of Learning."

<sup>1</sup> This extract appears in a letter from Amos Botsford to Dr. Stiles, dated "Westmoreland, New Brunswick, 27th July, 1789," printed in the *New Haven Journal and Courier*, Oct 6, 1877.

mention of it is from the pen of Inspector-General Baron Steuben, who, on Sept. 6, 1779, entered the following remarks on his manuscript inspection returns, preserved in the New York Historical Society :

“This Regt. is divided into 7 comp<sup>s</sup> & is too weak to form a battallion, the only fault I find with the Regt.—it being for the first Review the best in order of any Regt. in the army. Their arms are a model. The officers take the greatest pains with their men. The Regt. marches perfectly, & has truly a military air. Majr. Huntington who commands the Regt. deserves particular attention for the superior order in which he has kept the Regt. The officers have not yet received their commissions & I cannot but interest myself for a Corps who have so eminently distinguished themselves.”

Huntington was soon promoted Lieut.-Colonel, and Captain Wyllys, class of 1773, Major.

The record for this year closes with the death of Col. Giles Russell, of the Eighth Connecticut Line, at Danbury, Oct. 28th. He was an excellent officer, though in delicate health, having suffered for some time from an old wound received in the French and Indian war. He had served in the campaign around New York, at Germantown, Valley Forge, and Monmouth. Referring to his loss and the succession to the vacancy, Washington says to Gen. Heath, Nov. 1, 1779 :

“ . . . I am sorry to hear of Colonel Russell's death, of whose indisposition I had not known.

“Lieutenant-Colonel Sherman's right of promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel-Commandant in consequence must be reported to the State of Connecticut by the brigadiers of that line, agreeable to the terms of the late general order, as must also the names of the subalterns of the 8th Regiment entitled to promotion

in consequence of Colonel Russell's death. The State will signify their approbation to the Board of War, who will issue Commissions accordingly. Then, and not before, Colonel Sherman will assume his new Command. . . . "

Sherman assumed this command Dec. 28th, following, and retained it until the consolidation of the regiments, Jan. 1, 1781. The Eighth Regiment had thus been successively commanded by three graduates—Chandler, Russell, and Sherman,—and had been engaged, in whole or in part, at Germantown, Mud Island, Monmouth, and Stony Point.





## EVENTS IN 1780-81.

The Morristown Huts—Severe Winter of 1780—Letters from Major Huntington, Commissary Flint, and Others—Battle of Springfield, N. J.—David Humphreys, Aid to Washington—Letters from Gov. Livingston and Gen. Paterson—Dr. Stiles in the French Camp—Death of Col. Brown—Major Tallmadge and His Services—Letter on André—Humphreys' Attempt on Clinton—Lieut.-Col. Gray.

A DEPRESSING year. At the south, in May, we lost Charleston; in August followed the Camden disaster. Operations in the north, notwithstanding the arrival of French support, were confined to manœuvres, with some clever minor enterprises. Take the field over, and fortune smiled on the enemy.

More than this, in consequence of the protraction of the contest, public activity was suffering a sort of stagnation, and in turn the army in the field suffered. The absence of efficient executive departments under the Confederation frequently reduced the troops to sore straits. Provisions, clothes, money, and men were wanting when most needed. The mass of the population was not less true to the common aim, but it experienced a reaction from the earlier impulse and energy. There was the same determination to hold out to the end, only a less pronounced enthusiasm, much cavilling at methods, and actually fewer resources at hand.

January ushered in the famous cold winter of 1780, —snow four feet deep around the camps in the high-

lands, and "so intense and steady was the weather" that for twenty days no thaw could be observed in places most exposed to the sun. It was the winter when the enemy in New York could send horses and artillery down the bay from the Battery to Staten Island on the ice, and when they expressed uneasiness lest Washington might seize the opportunity to attack King's Bridge or the city itself by way of the frozen Hudson.

Winter quarters at Morristown reminded Washington's troops of Valley Forge two years before. If any thing this season was severer. Major Huntington writing to his colonel, Webb, at Wethersfield, says :

" MORRISTOWN, 24th December, 1779, IN CAMP.

" . . . You will by the date perceive that we are in camp, tho' expect, if good weather, to have the men's Hutts so far compleated that they may go into them on Sunday or Monday. The officers' Hutts are not begun, nor will they be meddled with till after the men have finished theirs. The severity of the weather hath been such that the men have suffer'd much without shoes and stockings, and working half leg deep in snow. Poor fellows, my heart bleeds for them, while I d—— my country as void of gratitude. I wish you would send on to me all the cloathing in store immediately. I much want it for the men, tho' am Positively forbid by the General using scarlet coats on any acc<sup>t</sup>. I wish that Wylls, who will be at home soon, might have it in his power to receive some cloathing and forward it to the Regiment. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

Captain Joseph Walker, class of 1774, also of Webb's regiment, received a furlough and wrote from Hartford to his colonel as follows, under date of Feb. 6, 1780 :

" . . . I left the Reg<sup>t</sup> the 21<sup>st</sup> day of last month and am happy to say in much better circumstances at that time than they had

<sup>1</sup> This and the extract following, from the Webb "Reminiscences."



been for weeks before. Our situation in regard to Provision was such I never wish to see again. Short commons ever ought to be avoided & when it cannot the consequences are to be dreaded in the army—that you know. However I can with pleasure inform you (& what I think will give you no small satisfaction), that the Lads bore it with the greatest patience and fortitude. We considered the severity of the season, the difficulty of transportation, and were willing to make all allowance possible.

“My good friend, it requires almost the wisdom of Solomon to conduct at these times, and the virtue of the Angel Gabriel to surmount the difficulties which, to appearances, come upon us as it were in a moment.

“After our long march you may well think our men were rather destitute of cloathing ; after our arrival we began and completed our Hutts which destroyed our cloathing still more & to my certain knowledge we had not more than Fifty men in the Reg<sup>t</sup> return<sup>d</sup> fit for duty,—many a good Lad with nothing to cover him from his hips to his Toes save his Blanket, some wanting one thing & some another, but the most general complaint was shoes——”

On the same subject—the winter and short rations at Morristown — Commissary Royal Flint, class of 1773, wrote to Washington :

“SIR :—I have frequently within these few days acquainted Col. Hamilton with my prospects of supplies, and thought I had good authority for all I communicated—yet now I find the event does not precisely agree with what I foretold. As soon as I was informed that there would be a failure of Beef Cattle from the Eastward, I used the most probable methods of procuring a supply in this State [N. J.], and I had reason to suppose a sufficiency could be collected to serve the army several weeks. . . . But it does not yet come, and the army are almost perishing for want.

“It distresses me exceedingly that I am obliged to make this report, but I must mention facts. My expectations are as follows :

	Barrels.
From Mr. Hooper in Sussex County, Salt Meat, . . .	400
From Pitts Town . . . . .	50
From the Counties of Middlesex & Somerset . . . .	250
	<hr/> 700

At the North River are Cattle . . . .	200 head.
In the County of Orange . . . .	150
In Sussex at least . . . .	20
In care of Mr. Dunham, say . . . .	50
	<hr/>
	420

Our distresses are known to the several persons who have charge of the foregoing provisions, and I am persuaded they will leave nothing undone to forward them. I have no absolute dependence on any further supplies of meat than are mentioned above. The purchasers here say they could buy cattle if they had money, of which I can neither give nor promise them any, as there is not the least prospect that any adequate sums of money will be furnished the department, and our credit is totally exhausted. With respect to Bread I can only say that there is Grain in great number of mills in this State which is getting ready as fast as possible and will not be delayed unnecessarily. I have no more bread at present in camp than will serve the troops to-morrow. I fear the storm will keep the waggons from moving as well as the cattle from travelling.

"I am with Great Respect,

"Your Excellency's Most

"Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

"ROYAL FLINT,

"Ass<sup>t</sup> Com<sup>y</sup> purchases.

"Morristown, Jan<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>, 1780.

"His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington."<sup>1</sup>

Flint again speaks of his anxiety and exertions as to supplies for the snow-bound troops in camp in the following letters. On Dec. 27, 1779, he wrote to Col. Henry Champion, Deputy Commissary in Connecticut :

" . . . . If you fail to supply us our case will grow so desperate that the troops must either be let loose to seek food for themselves or expedients must be used to compel the inhabitants to spare what they need for their families and to stock their plantations.

<sup>1</sup> Trumbull Papers, Mass. Hist. Soc.

The consequence is certain—there is no possible chance of escaping it. The General will see his army suffer the greatest extremity sooner than have recourse to military authority for relief. He is exceedingly cautious and tender in such points ; but the soldiers must eat. I well know your difficulties—what you have to encounter from a want of cash—and I as well know you have perseverance & abilities for the occasion. Struggle a few days longer and I trust your embarrassments will be removed. . . . I cannot bear the idea of failing at this advanced stage of the war when there is so good a prospect of bringing it to a fortunate close. Was our army now to break up for want of provisions it would give the enemy fresh vigor and stimulate them to persist in a contest in which at present they have no hope of success. Let all these considerations together produce such actions as will enable you to feed the army, and by that means render such a service to your country as ought never to be forgotten.”<sup>1</sup>

This earnest appeal, which moved Col. Champion to renewed exertions, was followed a few days later by another from Flint, addressed to Gov. Trumbull :

“ MORRISTOWN, Jan'y 6, 1780.

“ . . . The distress of the army for several days past hardly admits of a description. It is a melancholy fact that the troops, both officers and men, have almost perished for want of provisions. In many instances the extremity has been so severe as to prompt them to commit depredations on the property of the inhabitants. This sudden calamity was occasioned by the early commencement and unusual rigor of the winter, attended by heavy and repeated falls of snow. By these obstructions transportation was so delayed that the magazines in the vicinity were exhausted before relief could be drawn from the more distant resources. In this unfortunate situation the Commander-in-Chief has been compelled to lay the Contiguous Country under a contribution, obliging the inhabitants to furnish a certain quantity of

<sup>1</sup> This and the extract following from MSS. in possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, Hartford, Conn.

provisions within a special time. This expedient, however, is only to produce a temporary succour, and will cease its operation as soon as the ordinary chanells of supply are open. I think there is a tolerable prospect of flour from the Southern States, but our principal dependence for meat, as heretofore, rests on Connecticut. As Col. Champion has expressed his fears of not continuing the supplies, I am persuaded your Legislature will consider a circumstance that merits their attention. The most material obstruction in his way is the want of cash, and I feel no probability of a speedy and adequate remedy to this evil from the Continental Treasury. I must therefore request your Excellency to represent our circumstances to your Legislature, and I am convinced they have both ability and inclination to adopt regulations suitable to our exigencies. Your state has exhibited too many proofs of its attachment to the army to make me doubt of its aid on the present occasion."

By great exertions on the part of quartermasters and commissaries sufficient food reached camp, and the troops kept in quarters.

Early in the summer Washington moved the greater part of his army toward the Hudson, leaving two brigades in New Jersey under General Greene. The enemy, under Knyphausen, marched out from Staten Island, and attacked this force on June 23d in the vicinity of Springfield. We came out of the engagement with credit. One of the brigades was Stark's, which then included Webb's regiment, under Lieut.-Col. Huntington, and Henry Jackson's, having eight or nine graduates among their officers.

It is interesting to find—a fact not heretofore brought out—that David Humphreys was also on the ground at Springfield, acting as aid-de-camp to Greene, and that he transmitted the first account of the fighting to the Commander-in-Chief. The re-

port, in the form of a letter, is subjoined, not only as new material, but as being one of the few reports made directly from the battle-field and during the progress of the action, found in Revolutionary records. The original in the Sparks' collection at Harvard College is as follows :

“ HEIGHTS NEAR SPRINGFIELD, June 23, '80,

“ 11 o'clock, A.M.

“ SIR :

“ General Greene directs me to inform your Excellency, that from the best intelligence he is able to obtain, the enemy are now out in force, with seventeen pieces of artillery—At first they made a demonstration of acting on his right ; and large parties were seen from the heights of Springfield filing off in that direction : A considerable column, in the meantime, advanced on his left, where Major Lee with a body of militia was posted, between whom and the enemy there was some skirmishing without any considerable effect.

“ After having spent two or three hours, in various manœuvres apparently with a design of gaining our flanks, they of a sudden contracted their front, and pushed a column up the main road to Springfield where a sharp action ensued for a short time, between some detachments, which were posted to cover our artillery on the height, and then advance.—Our troops retreated in order, and brought off the field pieces.

“ The troops are advantageously posted to annoy the enemy's progress—and General Greene is determined to dispute every inch of strong ground with them. Indeed they must have been very much galled before they got possession of Springfield, as they rec<sup>d</sup> several very heavy and well directed fires from Angel's & Shreeve's Reg<sup>ts</sup> which behaved with the greatest gallantry.

“ The firing has now principally ceased—the loss on either side cannot be ascertained—on our it is not great—Several of our wounded are brought off—A Dragoon Horse of the detachment which escorted General Greene was killed with a cannon shot. I have heard of no officers killed and but few slightly



wounded—they have this moment set fire to two or three buildings—how far the conflagration will extend, I know not—In the greatest haste—

“I have the honor to be

“Your Excellency’s

“Most Obed. Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

“D. HUMPHREYS.

“His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington.”

[Endorsed]

Opened at Mr. Lotts 5, o’clock, P. M.

by your

Hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

ANT<sup>y</sup> WAYNE.”

Humphreys before this had been aid to Gen. Putnam, and he was now temporarily with Greene. Fortune favored him still farther with an advancement to Washington’s staff, and on the day of the Springfield action his new appointment was announced as follows :

“HEAD QUARTERS, RACKAWAY,

“Friday, June 23, 1780.

“ . . . Cap<sup>t</sup> *David Humphreys* of the Connecticut Line is appointed Aid de Camp to the Commander-in-Chief, and is to be respected and obeyed accordingly. . . .”<sup>1</sup>

This promotion led to that well-known intimacy which afterwards subsisted between Humphreys and Washington. In his poem on “The Happiness of America,” he refers to the changes mentioned in his own military career as follows :

“I too, perhaps, should heav’n prolong my date,  
The oft-repeated tale shall oft relate ;  
Shall tell the feelings in the first alarms,  
Of some bold enterprize th’ unequall’d charms ;

<sup>1</sup> From Lt.-Col. Grosvenor’s MSS. Order-Book, while serving as Inspector of the Connecticut Division.

Shall tell from whom I learnt the martial art,  
 With what high chiefs I play'd my early part,  
 With Parsons first, whose eye, with piercing ken,  
 Reads through their hearts the characters of men ;  
 Then how I aided, in the foll'wing scene,  
 Death-daring Putnam—then immortal Greene—  
 Then how great Washington my youth approv'd,  
 In rank prefer'd, and as a parent loved  
 (For each fine feeling in his bosom blends  
 The first of heroes, sages, patriots, friends) ;  
 With him what hours on warlike plans I spent,  
 Beneath the shadow of th' Imperial tent,  
 With him how oft I went the nightly round,  
 Thro' moving hosts, or slept on tented ground ;  
 From him how oft (nor far below the first  
 In high behests and confidential trust)—  
 From him how oft I bore the dread commands,  
 Which destined for the fight the eager bands ;  
 With him how oft I past th' eventful day,  
 Rode by his side, as down the long array,  
 His awful voice the columns taught to form,  
 To point the thunders, and to pour the storm."

An earnest, patriotic letter from Gov. Livingston to Baron Steuben, written about this time, will be read with interest. One may gather from its tone how New Jersey came to lean upon him through the war :

" RARITAN, 21st June, 1780.

" DR. BARON:—I met your favor of yesterday on the road on my Return from the Assembly. They have passed a more rigorous Law for reducing the Militia to military discipline ; and the Law for filling up our Brigade, I hope will also speedily have its Effect. But it must be confessed that we are always too late and generally begin to think of providing our Quota when we ought to open the Campaign. I am sorry to hear that our Militia quit their Posts before the expiration of their time. It is indeed enough to exhaust the Patience of any officer who has the direction of them. But,

my dear Sir, there is a kind of passive as well as active fortitude that we must exercise on these occasions, & General Washington who has exhibited a thousand instances of that kind of suffering Heroism, ought to animate us all by his illustrious example. Think not, my dear Baron, of resigning your present Command ; tho' in one sense an officer is in danger of reaping n'ot but disgrace by commanding such a disorderly band ; yet when it is duly considered *how disorderly* they are, & that he does great things even with such material, it must add to his Glory.

"The Militia from the lower Counties of this State are on their way in considerable numbers. Gov. Reed [of Penn.] informs me that his militia are ready to march to our assistance at a moment's warning.

"You want not, Sir, the addition of my Testimony in proof of the great obligations under which you have laid this Country by your signal services. But great as your merit is you may still give it an additional Lustre by rising superior to all the Difficulties with which I see you embarrassed.

"I have the honor to be,

"Dr. Sir, &c.,

"WILLIAM LIVINGSTON.

"Major-Gen'l Baron Steuben,"<sup>1</sup>

Another from Gen. Paterson is a call for arms, as follows, addressed to the President of the Massachusetts State Council :

"WEST POINT, July 27th, 1780.

"SIR :—The bad economy, which has inseparably attended the operations of America (until very lately) has reduced our Arms

<sup>1</sup> Original in possession of S. L. M. Barlow, Esq., New York.

Gov. Livingston's pen was equal to any occasion, and at other times he could be as humorous to Steuben as he was serious at this. At the close of the war, for instance, when the Baron applied for the confiscated property of the Bayards at Hoboken, Livingston wrote from Trenton, Nov. 7, 1783, that it would be difficult to obtain the grant, and added : "If you never was on the spot yourself in the months of July, August, or September, & if I thought myself at liberty to obtrude my advice upon you, I would say that considering how often you are exposed to lose blood in the way of your profession as a soldier, I would dissuade you from putting it in the power of the musketoes at Hoebuck to augment the effusion ; for never did I set my foot in a place where that troublesome & venomous little volatile during those months swarmed in greater abundance."

—N. Y. Hist. Soc. MSS.

to so small a number, that we are not able to arm our New Levies ; from what cause this has arisen is not my business at present to attend to, tho' I think it obvious.

"The operations of this year depend entirely upon the single circumstance of our being able to procure a sufficiency. By some fatal misconduct, or neglect, the Arms expected from Europe are not arrived, and indeed cannot be expected in season ; it is therefore necessary to use every exertion in our power for an immediate supply.

"I have advised Baron Steuben, Inspector General, to apply to the New England States, for the loan of a certain number, that they may have on hand, or could collect from the several Towns ; tho' this may be attended with difficulty, and in some instances (to appearances) injure individuals, yet when put in competition with an inert campaign, it certainly bears no comparison.

"The Baron has requested me to write you on the subject ; I have not the least doubt, but you will do every thing in your power to procure an immediate supply ; the success of this year most certainly will in a great degree depend on it, and probably the events of the war.

"I am, your honor's

"Most obedient and very

"Humble Servant,

"JOHN PATERSON.

"Hon<sup>ble</sup> Jeremiah Powell." <sup>1</sup>

In the latter part of September President Stiles visited his old Newport parish, and took the opportunity to call upon officers of the French army, which had lately arrived at that place. He speaks of them as follows :

"1780.

"Oct. 5. Introduced to the Commander in Chief of the French allied army, the Count de Rochambeau.

" 7. Dined at the Generals—de Rochambeau. Gen<sup>l</sup> Arnolds Flight from West point, 25<sup>th</sup> ult.

" 8. Lds day. I preached in the Sabb.-Meeting to my Dear

<sup>1</sup> Mass. State Archives, Revolutionary Letters, vol. x.

Newp<sup>t</sup> Flock. My Meet<sup>g</sup> house and three others taken up for the Hospitals.

- " 9. Dined at Gen<sup>l</sup> de Chatelux in a splendid manner, on 35 Dishes. He is a capital Literary Character, a Member of the French Academy. He is the Glory of the Army. After Dinner the Minister of France, the Chevalier de la Luzerne, with the General, came in & socially conversed round the Table. We had news last Even<sup>g</sup> that Major Andre, the British spy connected with Arnold, was Executed at Gen. Washington's camp last Monday noon.
- " 10. Visiting.
- " 11. Dined at Mr. Channings with Generals Veiomemel & Chattelux & a number of French officers.
- " 16. Writ<sup>g</sup> Lett. to Dr. Franklin at Paris . . .
- " 17. Anniversary of the Victory at Saratoga, 1777 . . .
- " 19. Took Leave of the General, the Count de Rochambeau, and all Friends in Newport, & left it & sat out on Journey for N. Haven."

It was in the fall of this year that that good soldier, Col. John Brown, class of 1771, met his death in the field. His services in Canada and in the Burgoyne campaign marked him as one of the ablest partisan officers on our side, and now that troops were needed to protect the settlements in Central New York, he again volunteered with Berkshire militia to meet the enemy in that quarter. He marched to Stone Arabia, where he received orders from Gen. Van Rensselaer to relieve a small post. On the way he was attacked by a large body of Indians and regulars, and after a sharp action, killed with forty of his men. His death was much regretted. Humphreys, who was one of his classmates, feelingly refers to him as follows, in his "Address to the Armies of America."



“Ah hapless friend ! permit the tender tear  
To flow e'en now, for none flow'd on thy bier,  
Where, cold and mangled, under northern skies,  
To famished wolves a prey thy body lies—  
Which erst so fair and tall in youthful grace,  
Strength in thy nerves, and beauty in thy face,  
Stood like a tow'r, till struck by the swift ball—  
Then what avail'd (to ward th' untimely fall)  
The force of limbs, the mind so well informed,  
The taste refin'd, the breast with friendship warm'd  
(That friendship which our earliest years begun),  
Or what the laurels that thy sword had won,  
When the dark bands from thee, expiring, tore  
Thy long hair, mingled with the spouting gore ?”

It is at this period of the war, also, that Major Tallmadge's services come more prominently into notice. We may recall him as one of Hale's classmates, Chester's adjutant in 1776, afterwards captain, and now major of Sheldon's Dragoons. In the latter capacity he won the confidence of Washington and was entrusted by him with delicate and responsible duties. It was through Tallmadge's agency that important lines of secret communication were established with persons on Long Island and in New York, from whom much needed intelligence of the enemy's movements and designs was received. How far Washington depended on this channel of information appears from a number of his published letters and from Tallmadge's "Memoirs."<sup>1</sup> The Major also played a leading part in the capture of André and was with him much of the time until his execution.

<sup>1</sup> An article, entitled "The Secret Service of the Revolution," published in the *Magazine of American History*, for February, 1882, contains extracts on this point from the private correspondence then carried on between Tallmadge and the Commander-in-Chief.

One of his letters respecting that unfortunate officer, recently brought to light, runs as follows :

“ HEAD QRS., TAPPAN, Sept. 30th, 1780.

“ DEAR SIR :

“ . . . You have doubtless heard before this of the rascally conduct of *Arnold*. He is gone to the Enemy, where I think his misery, from the neglect which must ensue, will be complete. Poor *Andre*, who has been under my charge almost ever since he was taken, has yesterday had his tryal, and tho’ his Sentence is not known, a disgraceful death is undoubtedly allotted to him. By Heavens ! Col. Webb, I never saw a man whose fate I foresaw whom I so sincerely pitied. He is a young fellow of the greatest accomplishments, and was the prime minister of S<sup>r</sup> Harry on all occasions. He has unbosomed his heart to me so fully, & indeed let me know almost every motive of his actions since he came out on his late mission, that he has endeared me to him exceedingly. Unfortunate Man ! He will undoubtedly suffer Death tomorrow, & tho’ he knows his fate, seems to be as cheerful as if he was going to an Assembly. I am sure he will go to the Gallows less fearful for his fate and with less concern than I shall behold the tragedy. Had he been tried by a Court of Ladies, he is so *genteel*, *handsome*, *polite* a young Gentleman, that I am confident they would have acquitted him.

“ But enough of poor *Andre*, who, tho’ he dies lamented, falls justly. I am happy to find he has wrote to S<sup>r</sup> Harry Clinton, in which letter he speaks highly of our treatment towards him, & takes off the idea of his being under *Sanction of a flagg* when he was taken, which had been told by Arnold to S<sup>r</sup> Harry, that our Conduct in punishing him might be Censurable. I think his letter to Gen. Clinton will effectually ruin Arnold with the Enemy.

“ Jos. Smith, an accomplice with Arnold, I also bro’t on with me. He is now under tryal. . . .

“ In haste, believe me

“ Your friend & most obed’t Servant,

“ BENJ<sup>r</sup>. TALLMADGE.

“ Col. Samuel Webb, at Mr. Bancker’s, on the Raritan, State of N. Jersey.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> From the Webb “ Reminiscences.”

Tallmadge, furthermore, distinguished himself in some gallant exploits, one of which occurred on November 21st of this year. He conducted an expedition in boats across the Sound, marched to Fort George, at Oyster Bay, surprised and captured the garrison of Tory refugees, burned vessels, stores, and hay, and returned to Fairfield, without the loss of a man. Washington complimented him highly and transmitted his report of the affair to Congress, which showed its appreciation by passing the following resolution :

“ IN CONGRESS, December 6th, 1780.

“ WHILE Congress are sensible of the patriotism, courage and perseverance of the officers and privates of their regular forces, as well as of the militia throughout the United States, and of the military conduct of the principal commanders in both, it gives them pleasure to be so frequently called upon to confer marks of distinction and applause for enterprises which do honour to the profession of arms, and claim a high rank among military achievements. In this light they view the enterprise against Fort St. George, on Long Island, planned and conducted with wisdom and great gallantry by Major Tallmadge, of the light dragoons, and executed with intrepidity and complete success by the officers and soldiers of his detachment :

“ Ordered, therefore, That Major Tallmadge’s report to the Commander-in-Chief be published, with the preceding minute, as a tribute to distinguished merit and in testimony of the sense Congress entertain of this brilliant service.

“ Extracts from the minutes,

“ CHARLES THOMSON, Se’cy.”

In Tallmadge’s party was a young graduate of ’76, Heathcote Muirson, who joined him as a volunteer, and behaved so well that he was offered a commission in the Dragoons on the next vacancy. Washington’s high opinion of Tallmadge was expressed again long



*Benj<sup>n</sup>. Tallmadge*

MAJOR SECOND REGIMENT LIGHT DRAGOONS CONTINENTAL ARMY.

*From original portrait by T. S. B. 1780.*





after the war, when he recommended him for the command of the cavalry corps which it was proposed to attach to our Provisional Army of 1798.

One of the last incidents of the year was an attempt made by Col. Humphreys to capture Sir Henry Clinton, or the German General, Knyphausen, at New York. With Capt. Roger Welles, of the class of 1775, who had served during the summer in Lafayette's light infantry corps, two other officers and about forty men, he went down the Hudson, Dec. 25th, in the hope of surprising one of the generals at his quarters in the city. The wind, however, as Heath tells us, rose freshly from the northwest during the night, and the three boats of the expedition were driven past the Battery. A landing being impossible, they slipped by the enemy's shipping in the harbor, went through the Narrows, and finally made their way unobserved to Brunswick, whence the party returned by land to the army on Jan. 1st. The undertaking was a daring one, but Humphreys had had some experience in such warfare, as he accompanied Col. Meigs on his famous Sag Harbor expedition in 1777, and in 1778 himself took a party across the Sound and burned some supply vessels.

West Point and vicinity became winter-quarters for a portion of the army this year as last. The Connecticut Division built huts on the east side of the river not far from the Robinson House, Lieut.-Col. Gray, class of 1763, being appointed superintendent of the encampment. Writing to his brother, Dec. 22, 1780 (the letter in Miss Learned's Windham Co., Conn.), he says :

“Our huts are built where there is plenty of wood and water. We have had our starvation season—I hope the whole of it. It seems as if ’twas decreed in the Book of *Fates* that wherever we hut we should have short allowance ; and when Congress order us to keep a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the success and plenty wherewith Providence hath blessed us, that the army have nothing to make the heart glad, and a dismal and dark prospect before us. This has been the case for three years past ; but I hope and pray and believe that the scene is changed and better days and times are coming.”





## EVENTS IN 1781-82.

Situation at the North—Col. Hull's Affair at the Outposts—Lafayette's Virginia Expedition—Major Wyllys—Letters from Capt. Welles and Others—The Yorktown Campaign—Graduate Officers at the Siege—Humphreys and the Captured Flags—Rejoicings—President Stiles to Washington.

THIS the closing year of active operations, which terminated so brilliantly at Yorktown, opened much as other years had opened—blindly, without any significant indications except in the far South. There Greene and Cornwallis were facing each other; but what turn the situation in the North would take was for the first five months altogether conjectural. To Washington the outlook was discouraging. The army was greatly reduced in numbers, supplies limited, the public credit low. It seemed certain that as the enemy were still sending reinforcements to the South they would undertake no offensive operations in the North, in which case Washington would be compelled either to remain idle, or, in conjunction with the French allies then in Rhode Island, threaten New York; but there, without a coöperating fleet, success could hardly be looked for. It was not until late in May that a campaign was proposed.

Meantime two enterprises varied the monotony, in each of which graduates took part. One was an exploit, successfully conducted by that admirable officer, Lieut.-Colonel William Hull, than whom few if any

of his rank could show a finer record. He had participated in the siege of Boston and the operations around New York in 1775 and 1776, and had engaged, generally in close action, at the battles of White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, the Ticonderoga retreat, Saratoga, Monmouth, and Stony Point. Washington's personal esteem for him was well known; it was the same esteem that he accorded, upon the same ground of capacity and meritorious service, to Hull's college mates, Sherman, Humphreys, and Tallmadge.

In the winter of 1780-81 Hull commanded the outposts of the army on Croton River. Below, towards King's Bridge, lay the middle ground subject to raids by Americans and British alike, and where they frequently met and skirmished. On Dec. 31, 1780, the latter indulged in one of their excursions, which Gen. Heath, then commanding in the Highlands, mentions in his diary as follows:

"This day the enemy were out again. Col. Hull immediately marched down with his whole force to meet them; by his vigilance they were prevented from doing any mischief, and on his advance retired towards the saw-pits."

Hull now proposed to return the compliment. He requested permission to beat up the quarters of DeLancy's Refugee corps at Morrisania, opposite Harlem, and destroy bridges, barracks, and forage. Heath submitted the plan to Washington, who approved of it. On the 22d of January Hull marched, with about five hundred men, towards King's Bridge, passed Fort Independence unnoticed, left a detachment to destroy a pontoon bridge across the Harlem

opposite Fort Washington, and pushing on to Morisania succeeded in effecting a partial surprise of the post early on the morning of the 23d. He took prisoners, burned the enemy's quarters and considerable forage, and then returned by way of East Chester, where Gen. Parsons, with three regiments under Colonels Hazen, Scammell, and Sherman, had taken post to cover his retreat. Hull had, in effect, penetrated eight miles into the enemy's lines, and marched between forty and fifty miles, almost without a rest. During the last two miles he was compelled to skirmish with the enemy, who took the alarm and followed him up. With small loss he returned to the Croton lines—the affair being regarded as a bold, well-executed, successful dash. Parsons' and Hull's reports of the enterprise were published by order of Congress "in testimony of its approbation of the spirit and military conduct displayed by the officers and men" on the occasion. Gen. Parsons says in his report :

"In justice to Lieut.-Col. Hull and his officers, I ought to say that much of the success of this enterprise is owing to the judicious arrangements made by him, and the fortitude and address with which they were executed by them ; and in the state of excessive fatigue of his men, the retiring through West Chester in good order, and bringing off his prisoners, near two miles, under the enemy's fire, until he was supported by Col. Hazen, does him great honor . . . And I feel myself under great obligations to Colonels Hazen, Scammell, and Sherman, for the great assistance I received from them in making the necessary arrangements, and the cheerfulness with which they and the troops under their command executed the several parts of duty assigned to them."

Parsons also states that he advanced Col. Sher-

man on the road from William's Bridge to East Chester, to prevent the enemy from intercepting Hull by that route. "On his taking post on a hill east of the village, the British halted and did not advance again."

Washington and Heath both congratulated Hull and his command on their exploit.

The second enterprise was Lafayette's expedition into Virginia, which was destined to play an important part in the capture of Cornwallis. It was organized originally to attempt the capture of Arnold, who, with a British detachment, had taken post at Portsmouth, Va.; but the plan miscarried through failure of naval coöperation. Lafayette was then dispatched into Central Virginia to face Cornwallis, who was moving up from North Carolina in that direction, and there, in May, June, and July, the former conducted his skilful defensive campaign, in which he was almost constantly on the march, successfully avoiding the superior force of the enemy, and at the same time preventing him from "occupying" the State. Cornwallis closed his movements in August by settling down at Yorktown, with Lafayette watching him from different points on the peninsula above.

Five graduates were with Lafayette in this important preliminary campaign in Virginia. The expedition, as first organized, included three battalions of select troops—light infantry—mainly from New England. One of these battalions, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Gimat, a French officer, had for its major John Palsgrave Wylllys, while three of its eight captains were Jonathan Heart, Samuel A. S. Barker, and Roger Welles; and among the ensigns was



Ebenezer Daggett, youngest son of ex-President Daggett, of the college. It so happened that this particular regiment not only distinguished itself under Lafayette's command during the summer, but was to be given the opportunity of distinguishing itself above all other regiments at the crowning event of the campaign—the siege of Yorktown. In the sharp skirmish of Green Spring, near Jamestown, on July 6th, Wylls was in command; and as for Capt. Welles, we find him not only a gallant soldier, but a frequent letter-writer also, which for us in these days of inquisitive search for new material was a fortunate circumstance. Several interesting Revolutionary letters from his pen are preserved, some of which are here introduced in their proper connection. The following, written to his father from the heart of Virginia, while Lafayette was giving Cornwallis the chase through the State, is one of a very few referring to those movements known to exist:

“LIGHT INFANTRY CAMP (Louisa County), June 16, 1781.

“HON'D SIR:

“By Capt. Hart, who arrived the 11th Instant, I received your favor of the 28th of April last, together with what was intrusted to his care. I am much obliged to you, Sir, for being at the trouble of collecting the money and cloth sent on; it could never have arrived at a happier period. It found me very destitute of summer clothes, and almost every other necessary requisite to render life tolerable in this uninhabited world. We frequently march whole days without seeing any thing like a house, except a log hut or two. The people of this country are the most ignorant, miserable wretches on earth. Tenants, who are perfect slaves to their landlords, and scarcely know they have an existence. The Marquiss, till lately having a force far inferior to the enemy, was obliged to retreat a considerable distance

into the country. After Earl Cornwallis had formed a junction with Arnold (I say Arnold, because Gen. Phillips died a day or two before Cornwallis arrived), he found himself at the head of about 5000 men. Our army, being re-inforced by the Pennsylvania line, is now about equal in number to that of the enemy ; but the greater half are militia. Expect hourly to be joined by Baron Steuben, with a thousand men. This gives us so much the superiority that the enemy are now retiring, and its the opinion of some that they will make the best of their way back to Portsmouth. The enemy have much the advantage of us in Light Horse, as we have few here but Militia horse. Tarlton, with a party of L. Dragoons, a few days since penetrated into the country as far as Albermarle, the seat of government (about 70 or 80 miles distant from Richmond), and made prisoners two or three of the House of Burgesses, did very little other mischief, and returned with great speed. Were the Militia of this country under as good regulations as those of N. England, four or five hundred horse would not be able to ravage the country 40 miles distant from their main body, and even without a gun's being fired at them. All the arms belonging to this State are deposited in public stores, from which the militia are furnished when they are called into the field ; but are never able to act on any emergency. I should have wrote by Capt. Hart were I apprehensive he would have gone to Conn<sup>t</sup>. to acknowledge the receipt of a letter and some other articles by Capt. Francis last winter. My situation has been such for several months, I have scarcely had an opportunity of sending, and now its not direct. There's an officer going to the Grand Army by whom I shall write to Capt. Williams, and enclose this to be forwarded. . . . As the gentleman is now waiting I must desist, and am, with the greatest affection, your son,

R. WELLES.

"My respects to all my friends."<sup>1</sup>

It was during the progress of this campaign in Virginia that Washington planned his own grand combination against Cornwallis. Assured that De

<sup>1</sup> From the original in possession of Mr. Roger Welles, great-grandson of Capt. Welles, Newington, Conn.

Grasse with a powerful French fleet would appear in the Chesapeake in the latter part of August, and assured by Lafayette that the British general had established himself at Yorktown with the evident intention of remaining there for a time, he immediately abandoned his pretended operations against New York, and leaving Clinton in the lurch, put nearly half his Continentals and all the French troops on the march for Virginia. The movement was executed with great skill and precision, and on the 26th of September the entire force was concentrated with Lafayette's little army at Williamsburg eleven miles above Yorktown. The trap was successfully set. Blockaded on the bay by the French fleet, and his retreat landward cut off by Washington and Rochambeau, Cornwallis could not escape.

Captain Welles has another interesting letter for us here, showing that the troops appreciated the success of Washington's splendid move, and were eager to add the finishing stroke. To his father again :

“CAMP WILLIAMSBURG, Sept. 15, 1781.

“I hope I shall not be obliged to write at this distance many weeks longer. We have now the fairest prospect of capturing Lord Cornwallis with his Army. Doubtless ere this you have received an account of the arrival of the French in the Bay of Chesapeake with twenty-eight sail of the Line, and betwixt three and four thousand land forces. The troops are landed and now performing duty with us. They are as fine a body of men as I ever saw. The greatest harmony as yet subsists between the Allied Army.

“Last evening was announced the arrival of his Excellency General Washington from the Northward, by the discharge of cannon &c., on which the troops were immediately paraded and reviewed by his Excellency, which seemed to give new life and

spirits to every soldier in the Army. It is said he is to be followed by 6 or 8 thousand troops from the Northward some of which are expected immediately. The army after forming a junction will consist of near 20,000, including militia. The enemy, who are about 5 or 6000 in number, are strongly fortifying themselves in Yorktown, about twelve miles from this place. We expect orders hourly to move down and closely besiege them. With common success a force so much superior to theirs must soon reduce them. We all wish most heartily it may be the case, if for no other reason than that we may turn to the Northward again. We are tired of this climate, though the troops in general have been tolerably healthy. For my own part, by the hot season and fatigue I was a little reduced, but by leaving the Reg<sup>t</sup> and quartering in a good house I recruited again very soon.

"I think it probable you have heard the particulars of the Jamestown affair before this time. Our Reg<sup>t</sup> had a small share in the skirmish, but suffered very little loss. Not an officer wounded. I think we have been exceedingly fortunate. The Marquiss has conducted more like a Fabius through the campaign than an aspiring boy, as Lord Cornwallis was pleased to call him.

"This from your affectionate and dutiful Son,

"ROGER WELLES.

"My duty to my dear Mother and love to all friends. I wish most sincerely to see you all."

It only remained for the allied army to move down upon Yorktown and invest the place, which was done on the 28th of September. Then came the rigorous siege of nineteen days, and Cornwallis surrendered.

About twelve graduates participated in this final and greatest operation of the war. Five have been mentioned as being with Lafayette. With Washington came his aid, David Humphreys. Captain David Bushnell was present with the corps of Sappers and Miners. Among the Continentals which Washington brought down was a regiment of Light Infantry

under Col. Alexander Scammell, whose lieut.-colonel was Ebenezer Huntington, one of the captains, James Morris, a lieutenant, Nathan Haynes Whiting, and the surgeon's mate, Æneas Munson, from Yale. This regiment was placed with the other select troops under Lafayette, whose position was on the right of the besieging line. His force consisted of six Light Infantry battalions, and it is interesting to note that of their twelve field officers, all of whom were veterans of the war, eight were graduates of colleges, namely, Col. Scammell and Maj. Rice, of Harvard; Lieut.-Col. Huntington and Maj. Wyllys, of Yale; Lieut.-Col. Barber and Maj. Cumming, of Princeton; Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, of Columbia; and Lieut.-Col. Laurens, educated in England.

The turning-point of the siege was the capture, on the night of Oct. 14th, of two British redoubts which commanded their lines. One was assaulted by the French and the other by the American Light Infantry, with Gimat's regiment, of which Wyllys was major, in advance. With the exception of Humphreys, our graduates there belonged to the assaulting column or the reserve corps, and probably all were present. After the surrender, Humphreys was commissioned by Washington to convey the captured flags to Philadelphia and present them to Congress, a scene which afterwards became the subject of an historical painting. Congress on the occasion voted him an elegant sword.

Referring to the surrender, Capt. Welles writes to his father Oct. 23, 1781 :



“The hurry and confusion we have been in since the Capitulation has prevented my writing you any thing particular respecting the siege. I have not yet been able to obtain the Articles of Capitulation, tho’ I make no doubt you may receive them before this will reach you. I am told they are nearly the same as Clinton gave Gen’l Lincoln at Charlestown. Cornwallis has surrendered a very fine army. They are said to amount to upwards of seven thousand. The most pleasing sight I ever beheld, to see those haughty fellows march out of their strong fortifications and *ground* their *arms*. There is found in their magazines a great plenty of provisions, a considerable quantity of ammunition, and a great number of cannon, both brass and iron. This is by far the heaviest loss the enemy have sustained since the war. We expect soon to be on our way to the Northward.”

Capt. Morris, the young officer who was taken prisoner at Germantown, had been exchanged and was now at Yorktown. He has this brief description of the surrender :

“The 18th day was a day of respite. Our soldiers were directed to wash up and appear clean on the next day. The British were snug in their tents during this time. On the 19th day our whole army and the french army assembled, our army on the right and the French army on the left, about 6 rods apart, and each line reached more than a mile on an extended plain. We were thus drawn up to receive the vanquished. The British army marched out between our two armies, drums beating their own tunes, colours muffled ; and after they passed in a review of our army they piled their arms on the field of submission and returned back in the same manner into Yorktown.”

With the surrender came rejoicings throughout the country. At New Haven, says the *Connecticut Journal*, “a numerous assembly convened at the Brick Meeting House, where the audience were highly entertained with an animating, pathetic, and ingenious oration, delivered by one of the Tutors [Mr. Meigs],



and a Triumphant hymn sung by the students." <sup>1</sup> The college and residences were "beautifully illuminated" in the evening.

In Heath's camp on the Hudson the enthusiasm was unbounded. Capt. S. W. Williams, class of 1772, wrote to Col. S. B. Webb, Nov. 2<sup>d</sup> :

"The surrender of his Lordship was celebrated here on Wednesday last—an entertainment was provided in open field for all the officers of the army when we made use of 120 gallons of Madeira with a Quantum Sufficit of Spirits &c. A more sociable time I never experienced—every one was happy, many *perfectly* so—indeed the whole week has been but one continued Hurra from Right to Left." <sup>2</sup>

The college conferred the degree of LL.D. on Washington, and subsequently in transmitting the diploma President Stiles wrote him as follows :

"VALE COLLEGE, Dec. 8, 1781.

"SIR :

"You will receive by Col. Humphrey the Diploma & the Doctorate in Laws conferred upon you by the Senatus Academicus of this University.

"That this Literary Honor, this Tribute of academic Respect proved agreeable, we are happy to find by the Letter of acknowledgement you did me the honor to write me on the occasion.

"We rejoice that the Sovereign of the Universe hath hitherto supported you, as the deliverer of your Country, the Defender of the Liberty & Rights of Humanity, and the Mæcenas of Science and Literature. We share the public Joy, and Congratulate our Country on the Glory of your arms, and that eminence to which

<sup>1</sup> Tutor Meigs' oration was printed and a copy sent to Washington by President Stiles. In acknowledging its receipt, he wrote from Newburg, April 1, 1782: "I entreat you will make that Gentleman sensible of the high gratification I have received from his ingenious performance, and that you will be convinced of the ardent passion I have for the promotion of the Cause of Literature in general and especially of the pleasure I feel in the increasing reputation and ability of the Seat of Learning under your immediate direction."—*Stiles' Letter Books*.

<sup>2</sup> From the Webb "Reminiscences."

you have ascended in the recent Victory over the Earl of Cornwallis & his army in Virginia, under such evident and astonishing marks of the divine Interposition. With every sentiment of Respect & Honour,

"I am, Sir,

"Your Excellency's most

"obed<sup>t</sup>. serv<sup>t</sup>.,

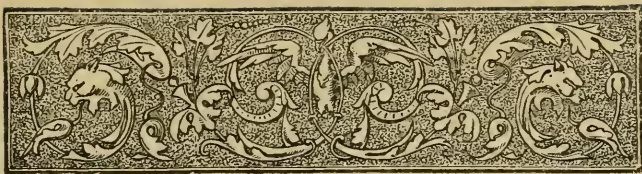
"EZRA STILES.

"His Excellency G. WASHINGTON."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ezra Stiles". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word "Stiles".

The Yorktown army, returning north, reached the Hudson camps about Dec. 1st, "all pleased," says Wylls, "with what was once thought so execrable—a sight of the Highlands." Doubtless, after the eight months' exacting service in Virginia with Lafayette, the Major appreciated the prospect of a winter's respite. But then he had returned with new "laurels."





## EVENTS IN 1782-83.

Peace Negotiations—Military Affairs—Letters from Welles, Wyllys, and Silliman—Tallmadge's Third Attempt on Long Island—The Major's Report and Washington's Reply—Letters from Sill and Humphreys—Evacuation of New York by the Enemy—Disbandment of the Revolutionary Army—Letter from Hull.

AFTER Yorktown the army and the country looked for peace. Negotiations were opened and continued through 1782, but military vigilance was in no way relaxed on that account. While no large operations were attempted on either side, Washington kept his troops at hand and in a high state of discipline ready to act in case hostilities were renewed. The winter had been passed in camps in New Jersey and the Highlands, and in the spring the army concentrated on the Hudson once more. The Connecticut Line had again huddled in its "Village" nearly opposite West Point, and by April had resumed drilling and parades. From that and other quarters we have a few letters during the year; for instance, something more from Capt. Roger Welles to his father:

"CONN<sup>CT</sup> HUTTS, April 13<sup>th</sup> 82.

" . . . Yesterday the Conn<sup>ct</sup> Troops were reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief when he was so particular as to cause every roll to be called by his Aid in his hearing, which circumstance was very pleasing to the soldiery, and served to excite a spirit of emulation among them. After which he made some observations which were very flattering to the officers of the line.

"The army have not rec<sup>d</sup> any pay as yet, nor is there a prospect at present. There are some notes (signed by the P. M. Gen'l, payable in August) come on for the officers to enable them to clothe themselves, which some have rec<sup>d</sup> from mere necessity and put them off at a considerable discount; the merchants will take them."

Again a month later, May 18th :

"For these ten days or more we have been flattering ourselves that peace was near at hand, but now begin to apprehend it so far distant that nothing short of a successful campaign will procure it for us. Sir Guy Carlton is arrived at N. York and succeeds Gen'l Clinton, who has sailed for England. By a flag from N. Y. Gen'l Washington has received a large packet in which were dispatches for Congress. Nothing that looks like peace has yet transpired. Hope the dispatches contain something more favorable. It seems there has been a great revolution at home, a great change in the ministry, and administration are willing to redress our grievances, and put us on the same footing we were in seventy-three. They pretend to think that the Americans are so attached to the British nation and so anxious for peace, that they will renounce their alliance with the Frence nation :—that we were contending with the former ministry, and not at war with the nation at large. I hope the States will exert themselves and get their quota of men early into the field—the only means to procure peace on good terms.

"There was last week some little disturbance in this part of the army, but it has all happily subsided. One of the principal promoters of it was yesterday executed at West Point—a soldier belonging to the first Reg<sup>t</sup>."

The outposts along the Croton River were as closely guarded as ever, and in the spring of this year the command was assigned to Major Wyllys. From the beginning of the war these posts, which were sometimes nearer the enemy, had been under the charge of such trustworthy officers as Burr, Hull, Tallmadge and others, and were seldom surprised by the enemy's

reconnoitering parties. Wylls, now quite a veteran, was another good selection.

He wrote occasionally while on duty. One of his official notes to Gen. Heath runs as follows :

“ PINE’S BRIDGE, 28th May 1782.

“ Should it meet with your approbation, I could wish to make some movements on the other side of Croton-River, with that part of the command now with me—and to allow the party at Bedford to make some little excursions between the Lines. I cannot imagine it would injure the Service.—We have no intelligence of importance as yet come to hand, or late N. York papers—Cap<sup>t</sup>. Smith has just now sent me a Deserter, from the New Bridge whom I send on—

“ I am, Sir,

“ with the greatest respect

“ your most obedient & humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

“ J<sup>N</sup><sup>O</sup> P. WYLLYS,

“ Maj<sup>r</sup> Comd<sup>g</sup> on the Lines.”<sup>1</sup>

Another to Col. Webb, June 3d :

“ I hope to find the Troops, when I return, ready to take the Field, as the herbage here is very luxuriant. The Duty here is now much easier than at first or rather is more natural — I have slept under cover no night since I have been at the post — We make use of Serg<sup>nt</sup> White’s bed of honour on which ten thousand men might sleep without touching — however duty may be called hard—our men grow sick fast. A party of our volunteer horse which I had sent as a scout fell in with some refugees, five or six of whom they wounded & took one prisoner—that is all the military exploit in which I have, as yet, had any hand since the command commenced. I expect Gen<sup>l</sup> [Heath’s] thanks for planning.”

The lookout along the Sound was also well kept, and the movements of the enemy’s vessels reported.

<sup>1</sup> From the Webb “ Reminiscences.”

Gen. Silliman at Fairfield could be trusted to warn the towns along the coast of all suspicious craft, as he did early in June as follows :

“ FAIRFIELD, June 4th, 1782,

“ 7 P. M.

“ SIR:

“ There is a Fleet of the Enemy's Ships now in the Sound. They are twenty in number. They appeared at four this afternoon about 12 miles to the westward ; they are standing eastward in a regular Line, and are now opposite to my House with a fair but very light Breeze. A Frigate leads and another is in the Reer. The rest of the Fleet consists of Brigantines, Topsail Sloops & Schooners principally large. I am of opinion that they may have on Board with ease 1500 or 2000 Troops. They intend mischief somewhere. New Haven is as likely to be their object as any Place. I have thought it my duty to give you this notice by express, that you may be on your Guard.

“ I have to entreat you to forward this Intelligence immediately to His Excellency at Hartford by express ; and also to New London & the other Towns on the Coast between that & New Haven; that they may not be surprised for want of Intelligence.

“ You will excuse this Letter coming open, as I have not time otherwise to give the Intelligence to Stratford & Milford.

“ I am Your Obed<sup>t</sup>

“ Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

“ G. SELLECK SILLIMAN. <sup>1</sup>

“ To

“ Col. HEZ. SABIN,

“ New Haven.”

A Light Infantry corps consisting of two regiments was again organized for possible operations in the summer and fall, and placed under the command of Col. Samuel B. Webb. Among the few graduates assigned to it were Major Ashley, class of 1767, and Captain Welles, the latter for the third time on this service. No opportunity, however, was given the

<sup>1</sup> From the original in the Trumbull Papers, Mass. Hist. Society.



command to distinguish itself as in previous years. Captain Welles writing from the Light Camp at Peekskill, Nov. 9th, says : " We are now preparing to march to-morrow morning to relieve the Troops on the lines. The Block House at Dobbs Ferry is the Post to which I am destined. . . . I propose making a visit among my friends soon after the Light Infantry are dissolved, which may be in the course of six weeks or less."

Toward the close of the year, Tallmadge made his third attempt on Long Island. The first two had been handsomely executed. On this occasion he sought Washington's permission to strike at the provincial corps commanded by Col. Thompson, who afterwards became the somewhat famous Count Rumford. Washington granted permission, and prepared to make a demonstration at the same time in the direction of King's Bridge. The night of the 5th of December was fixed for the movement. But this time Tallmadge was to meet with disappointment, the cause of the failure appearing in his official report and in the following letter he wrote to Col. Colt, then with the French army at Providence :

" NORTH STREET, Dec. 11th, '82.

" DEAR SIR :

" I have been so busily engaged on duty for some time, that I have scarcely had leisure to write a Line to my friends—

" There is, at Huntington on Long Island Col. Thompsons Legion, the remainder of the Queens Rangers & Tarleton's Legion, amounting to about 500 men, whose abuses to the Inhabitants have induced me to ask consent of the Commander in Chief to break them up.—He has been good enough to gratify my request & with a picked body of Lt. Infantry from the army, a part of our

Regt., some Levies & armed boatmen, amounting to above 500 men, I moved to Stamford on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst.

"Just as the Troops, were about to embark on Shiphard Point, a very sudden squall come up from the West, which prevented our crossing.—This was followed by a heavy northwest wind, which continued several days — I tarried on the Point three nights with the whole Detachment, till I was convinced the Enemy might have been apprized of our situation, even by the way of Kingsbridge, when to my inexpressible mortification, I was obliged to give over the enterprise.

"Three of the Enemies boats were discovered on Norwalk Islands at this time — I sent out some boats under Capt. Brewster, when with about even numbers a most severe conflict ensued in which two of the enemies boats were taken by two of ours—

"The notorious *Capt Hoyt* who commanded one of the enemies boats, had every one of his men either killed or taken—Six of the enemy were killed and 1 Capt. 1 Lt. & 13 men wounded & Prisoners—on our part, not a man was killed but Capt Brewster is badly wounded and several of his men—

"I am still of the opinion that the British Troops are preparing to leave N. Y. & that we shall have the city in the spring.

"The Garrison of Charlestown [S. C.] has undoubtedly left that place & it is said some of the Troops have arrived at N. York.

"Our Regt will move to Winter Quarters in a few days—when our cantonments are known, I will write you again. I am my D<sup>r</sup> Sir

"Most affectionately yours

(Signed) BENJ. TALLMADGE.

"Mr. Colt —"<sup>1</sup>

The Major's chagrin at failure must have yielded to feelings of highest gratification upon reading the following letter from his Chief in reply to his report of the affair :

"HEAD QUARTERS, Dec. 10th, 1782.

"DEAR SIR :

"I received your favour of the 8<sup>th</sup> last Evening by Express. Tho' you have not met with that success you deserved, and probably

<sup>1</sup> From the original in possession of Frederick S. Tallmadge, Esq., N. Y. City, grandson of Major Tallmadge.

would have obtained had the Enterprize proceeded, yet I cannot but think your whole conduct in the affair was such as ought to entitle you still more to my confidence and esteem—for however it may be the practice of the World and those who see objects but partially, or thro' a false medium, to consider *that* only as meritorious which is attended with success, I have accustomed myself to judge of human Actions very differently and to appreciate them by the manner in which they are conducted, more than by the Event; which it is not in the power of human foresight and prudence to command — In this point of view, I see nothing irreparable, & little occasion of serious regret, except the wound of the gallant Captain Brewster, from which I earnestly hope he may recover — Another time you will have less opposition from the Winds & Weather, and success will amply compensate for this little disappointment.

“I have almost determined to post you with the Infantry of the Legion contiguous to the Sound, in which case I shall expect you to persevere in your endeavours to keep me perfectly advised of the State of the Enemy—and perhaps some favourable moment may yet occur.

“I am Dear Sir

“With sincere regard &

“esteem your Most Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

“G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

“P. S.

“Your Letter of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
with the enclosures were  
safely delivered to me.

“Major TALLMADGE.”<sup>1</sup>

With the opening of the year 1783 hostilities had practically ceased. Tallmadge was engaged in suppressing the illicit trade carried on across the Sound, and the main army, reduced in numbers, was kept prepared for emergencies; but friends and foes alike regarded the war as over.

<sup>1</sup> From the original in possession of Mrs. George T. Balch, Troy, N. Y., granddaughter of Major Tallmadge. Also in Sparks' Washington.

Early in the year Gen. Stirling died at Albany. One of his aids was Major Richard Sill, class of 1775, who officially informed Washington of the event as follows :

"ALBANY, January 14th, 1783.

"SIR :

"Major-General Lord Stirling took his leave of this world at 6 o'clock this morning. Lady Stirling and Lady Caty are in the deepest distress. It would no doubt be more agreeable to his friends could he be interred with the honors due to his rank, but the distance of the Troops from this place will render it impossible to pay so small a tribute to his memory. A subaltern party, which has been stationed in Town as a Guard (being the only Troops in the City) will be ordered to attend on the occasion. It is not as yet determined on what day the funeral will be attended. Under the hope of Coll Duer's arrival it is probable it will be postponed a day or two. I have the honor to be, with the greatest esteem and Respect,

"Your Excellency's

"Most Obedient Servant,

"RICHARD SILL.

"His Excellency, General Washington.

"P. S.—His Lordship's funeral is to be on Thursday, the 16th."<sup>1</sup>

In April the treaty of peace was signed. During the summer the army, four regiments excepted, was disbanded; on November 25th the enemy evacuated New York, and a detachment of our forces, led by the Light Infantry, under Col. Hull, occupied the city. There Washington bade farewell to his officers, and then went on to Congress, at Annapolis, to resign his commission.

At the close of the year a regiment was organized to serve until July, 1784, of which Hull was the lieut.-

<sup>1</sup>From the original in the Archives of the State Department, Washington, D. C.

colonel, Charles Selden, class of 1777, adjutant, and Nathan Leavenworth, class of 1778, surgeon's mate. With its disbandment the old Army of the Revolution, excepting an artillery company or two, disappeared.

The last letter bearing upon the war, and with which this portion of the graduate record closes, is the following from Col. Hull, who had been commissioned in 1784 to superintend the transfer of the northern posts into American hands, as provided by the treaty of peace. It is addressed to Gen. Haldimand, commanding the English forces in Canada, the original being in the Haldimand collection, British Museum, London :

“ QUEBEC, 12th July, 1784.

“ SIR:

“ I am instructed to request of your Excellency, in Behalf of the United States of America, the precise Time when each of the Posts within their Territories, now occupied by his Britannic Majesty's Forces, will be delivered up agreeably to the definitive Treaty of Peace, and to propose, as a matter of mutual convenience, an Exchange of certain Cannon and stores now at the Posts to be Evacuated for Cannon and Stores to be delivered at West Point, New York, or some other convenient place.

“ With regard to the first Point, as the Season of the Year is already far advanced, and as much Time will be required in furnishing necessary supplies for the Garrisons during the Winter, it is an object of very great Importance, and I must beg leave to be solicitous with your Excellency to fix a very early period.

“ As the Posts of the above description are numerous, and it being probable that it may not be convenient to withdraw the Troops from the whole exactly at the same time, I wish your Excellency to be particular in fixing the precise period when each will be delivered up.

“ If your excellency approves the Proposal of exchanging the Cannon, Stores, &c., it will be necessary to fix on some criterion

of their goodness. I would, therefore, propose that the particular negotiations be referred to two Artillery officers, one from each side, who shall personally inspect the Cannon and Stores, and in case of not agreeing, call in a third Person.

“I Have the Honor to be your Excellency’s

“Most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

“WM. HULL.

“His Excellency General Haldimand.”





HUMPHREYS AND DWIGHT  
ON  
WASHINGTON.





## WASHINGTON.

Humphrey's Visit to Mt. Vernon in 1786—Letter to his Brother—Is Urged to Write a History of the Revolution—Personal Items—The "Father of his Country" at Home—President Dwight's Eulogy on Washington—An Estimate of his Character—Personal Qualities, Public Conduct, Military Talents, and Place in History.

AFTER the war Col. Humphreys went abroad as attaché to our Paris Legation, and upon his return, in 1786, Washington sent him a cordial invitation to visit Mt. Vernon. Humphreys accepted, and after his arrival there wrote the following letter to his brother, at Derby, Conn., describing his journey and impressions, and indulging in personal, gossipy items, which add to its interest. It is also of value as giving us a glimpse of interior and farm life at Washington's home :

" MOUNT VERNON, Aug., 4th, 1786.

" MY DEAR BROTHER :

" Tho' I hate writing abominably when I have nothing to say, or (what amounts to the same thing) nothing but what relates to myself, yet I will try for once to see what can be said on such an unimportant occasion & on such an unpromising theme.

" My journey was more agreeable than could have been expected at such a sultry season. It was a fortunate circumstance that we had such plenty of rain as never to be incommoded by the dust. By setting off at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning we also eluded the intensity of the heat. The variety of character to be met with in the stages is truly amusing. I rested some days at the principal places on my route where I received uncommon marks of attention. Indeed I have found by recent experience as well as by former travelling a great deal in the world, that a poet like a Prophet is not without honor except *in his own Country*.

“ Here I am domesticated in the family of the greatest of men. My reception was the most cordial that can possibly be conceived — my situation is such as would excite the envy of thousands. I believe I showed you a letter which Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington wrote to me while in Europe & which contained the following paragraph — ‘ The sentiment of your last letter on this subject (writing a history of the war) gave me great pleasure. I should indeed be pleased to see you undertake this business. Your abilities as a writer, your discernment respecting the principles which led to the decision by arms, your personal knowledge of many facts as they occurred in the progress of the war, your disposition to justice, candor & impartiality, and your diligence in investigating truth — combining — fit you in the vigor of life for this task. And I shall with great pleasure not only give you the perusal of all my papers, but any oral information of circumstances which cannot be obtained from the latter that my memory will furnish. And I can with great truth add that my house would not only be at your service during the period of your preparing this work, but (and without an unmeaning compliment I say it) I should be exceedingly happy if you would make it your home. You might have an apartment to yourself in which you could command your own time. You would be considered & treated as one of the family, and would meet with that cordial reception and entertainment which are characteristic of the sincerest friendship.’

“ Here is a noble work before me, but deterred by the magnitude of the enterprise I have not yet had spirit enough to resolve upon its execution. Whatever I may decide for the moment, I shall not absolutely lose sight of the object. In the meantime, it affords me no unpleasant reflection to be convinced that the man in the United States who entertains the most favorable sentiments of my morals and abilities is precisely the greatest man in them. Nor is it derogatory to one’s reputation to hold so high a place in the confidence & friendship of Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington. These are circumstances that would be flattering to the vanity of almost any man. For myself I feel a rational satisfaction that my honest endeavors to do my duty have met with success & merited his approbation.

“ It will no doubt be a matter of some curiosity to know in what manner my illustrious friend lives in his retirement. It is I as-

sure you with much temperance as well as a great deal of exercise. He rises about 5 o'clock & passes a great part of his time in superintending his plantations ; you may judge how extensive they are when I tell you he has had about 800 acres of wheat & 700 of corn this year. Besides this attention to the improvement of his estate he is a good deal occupied in opening the navigation of the Potomac, and in answering the letters of his numerous correspondents in Europe as well as in America. By a letter which he has just received from a foreigner of distinction in Paris I find that one of my Poems which was lately translated into French has been received with much applause, that the King and Queen having read it with great satisfaction, have testified their suffrage in favor of the author.

"I propose being in New Haven at the Commencement and consequently shall set out from this so as to be with you early in Sept', and I have no objection to its being known by my friends who are freemen of your town, that I shall be on the spot and if they should think proper to appoint me one of their representatives I well serve them as such—indeed you may show this letter where you think you can do it with discretion and propriety. — Probably this journey to the Eastward may decide me whether I shall in future consider myself a citizen of my native State or not. I have several projects, some one of which I am confident will succeed.

"By a letter which I received while in New York from our brother in Portsmouth, I had the pleasure to learn that his family are well. I hope to have the happiness of finding our venerable and good parents with the rest of my relations and friends at Derby in the same condition. In the meantime present me respectfully to them & believe me ever, My Dear Brother,

"Yours affectionately

"D. HUMPHREYS.

"JOHN HUMPHREYS, Esq.

P. S.—Perhaps I shall not come on quite so soon as I had proposed, as there is an eminent painter in Philadelphia who is engaged in giving some historical paintings of the most remarkable events which took place during the war, and who has requested me to sit for him (on my return from the South) as he has occasion to introduce my figure into two great pieces he has now in hand, viz.: the first, the presentation of the standards taken at

Yorktown to Congress by your humble servant. The other, the resignation of Gen Washington. You see whatever — — — — of my own town may think of it, posterity are likely to have some information concerning me.”<sup>1</sup>

It seems appropriate to insert in this connection also an extract from the sermon delivered by President Dwight at New Haven, Feb. 22, 1800, on the death of Washington, in the course of which he entered into an analysis of his character and qualities more discriminating and complete than any thing that has come down to us from those days.

Its intrinsic and historical value must appear in the portions quoted. The text of the discourse was from Deuteronomy xxxiv., 10-12 : “ And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses. . . . ”

\* \* \* \* \*

“ General Washington was great, not by means of that brilliancy of mind often termed genius, and usually coveted for ourselves and our children, and almost as usually attended with qualities which preclude wisdom, and depreciate or forbid worth, but by a constitutional character more happily formed. His mind was indeed inventive, and full of resources ; but its energy appears to have been originally directed to that which is practical and useful, and not to that which is shewy and specious. His judgment was clear and intuitive beyond that of most who have lived, and seemed instinctively to discern the proper answer to the celebrated Roman question : *Cui bono erit?* To this his incessant attention and unwearied observation, which nothing, whether great or minute, escaped, doubtless contributed in a high degree. What he observed he treasured up, and thus added daily to his stock of useful knowledge. Hence, although his early education was in a degree confined, his mind became possessed of extensive, various, and exact information. Perhaps there never was a mind

<sup>1</sup> Original in possession of Mrs. William Humphreys (aged 94), of Ashtabula, Ohio, niece by marriage of Col. David Humphreys.



on which theoretical speculations had less influence, and the decisions of common sense more.

“At the same time no man ever more earnestly or uniformly sought advice, or regarded it when given, with more critical attention. . . . When any measure of importance was to be acted on, he delayed the formation of his judgment until the last moment ; that he might secure to himself, always, the benefit of every hint, opinion, and circumstance which might contribute either to confirm, or change, his decision. Hence, probably in a great measure, arose, that he was so rarely committed ; and that his decisions have so rarely produced regret, and have been so clearly justified both by their consequences and the judgment of mankind.

“With this preparation he formed a judgment finally and wholly his own ; and, although no man was ever more anxious before a measure was adopted, probably no man was ever less anxious afterward. He had done his duty, and left the issue to Providence.

“To all this conduct his high independence of mind greatly contributed. By this I intend a spirit which dares to do its duty against friends and enemies, and in prosperous and adverse circumstances alike ; and which, when it has done its duty, is regardless of opinions and consequences.

“Nor was he less indebted to his peculiar firmness. He not only dared to act in this manner, but uniformly sustained the same tone of thought and feeling—such as he was at the decision, he ever afterward continued to be, and all men despaired of operating on him unless through the medium of conviction. The same unchanging spirit supported him through every part of his astonishing trials during the war ; and exhibited him as exactly the same man after a defeat, as after a victory ; neither elated nor depressed, but always grave, serene, and prepared for the event.

“From other great men he was distinguished by an exemption from favouritism. No man ever so engrossed his attachment, as to be safe for a moment from deserved reproof or censure ; nor was any man ever so disrelished by him, as, on that account, to fail of receiving from him whatever applause, or services, his merit could claim. Hence his friends feared, and his enemies respected him.

“His moderation and self government were such that he was always in his own power, and never in the power of any other person. Whatever passions he felt, they rarely appeared. His conduct, opinions, and life wore unusually the character of mere intellect. . . . His justice was exact, but tempered with the utmost humanity which the occasion would suffer. His truth no sober man who knew him probably ever doubted. Watchful against his own exposures to error, he was rarely found erring ; jealous of doing injustice, if he has done injustice, it is yet, I believe, unrecorded.

“His reservedness has been at times censured. To me it appears to have been an important and necessary characteristic of a person situated as he was. In familiar life a communicative disposition is generally pleasing, and often useful ; in his high stations it would have been dangerous. One unguarded or ambiguous expression might have produced evils, the remedy of which would have been beyond even his own power. No such expression is recorded of him.

“His punctuality was extreme. He rose always with the dawn ; he dined at a given minute ; he attended every appointment at the moment. Hence, his business, public and private, was always done at the proper time, and always beforehand.

“No person appears to have had a higher sense of decorum, and universal propriety. The eye, following his public and private life, traces an unexceptionable propriety, an exact decorum in every action, in every word, in his demeanor to men of every class, in his public communications, in his letters, and in his familiar conversation, from which bluntness, flattery, witticism, indelicacy, negligence, passion, and overaction, were alike excluded.

“From these things, happily combined, always seen, and seen always in their native light, without art or affectation, it arose that wherever he appeared, an instinctive awe and veneration attended him on the part of all men. Every man, however great in his own opinion, or in reality, shrunk in his presence, and became conscious of an inferiority which he never felt before. Whilst he encouraged every man, particularly every stranger, and peculiarly every diffident man, and raised him to self-possession, no sober person, however secure he might think himself of his esteem, ever presumed to draw too near him.

“With respect to his religious character, there have been different opinions. No one will be surprised at this who reflects that this is a subject about which, in all circumstances not involving inspired testimony, doubts may and will exist. The evidence concerning it must, of course, arise from an induction of particulars. Some will induce more of these particulars, and others fewer; some will rest on one class or collection, others on another; and some will give more, and others less, weight to those which are induced, according to their several modes and standards of judging. The question in this and all other cases must be finally determined before another tribunal than that of human judgment; and to that tribunal it must ultimately be left. For my own part, I have considered his numerous and uniform public and most solemn declarations of his high veneration for religion, his exemplary and edifying attention to public worship, and his constancy in secret devotion, as proofs, sufficient to satisfy every person willing to be satisfied. I shall only add that if he was not a Christian, he was more like one, than any man of the same description, whose life has been hitherto recorded.

“As a warrior, his merit has, I believe, been fully and readily acknowledged; yet I have doubted whether it has always been justly estimated. His military greatness lay not principally in desperate sallies of courage; in the daring and brilliant exploits of a partisan. These would have ill suited his station, and most probably have ruined his cause and country. It consisted in the formation of extensive and masterly plans; effectual preparations, the cautious prevention of great evils, and the watchful seizure of every advantage; in combining heterogeneous materials into one military body, producing a system of military and political measures, centering universal confidence, and diffusing an influence next to magical; in comprehending a great scheme of war, pursuing a regular system of acquiring strength for his country, and wearing out the strength of his enemies. To his conduct, both military and political, may, with exact propriety, be applied the observation, which has been often made concerning his courage: that in the most hazardous situations no man ever saw his countenance change.

“Perhaps I shall be thought to have dwelt too long and too minutely on his character. I hope I shall be justified, partially at

least, when it is remembered that I have been seizing the best opportunity, which I shall ever enjoy, of teaching, in the most affecting manner in my power, the youths committed to my instruction, and forming a part of this audience, the way to become great, respectable, and useful.

"Such, my friends and fellow citizens, was the man whose death we are assembled to lament, and whose worth we commemorate. Like the illustrious subject of my text, he stands alone in his nation. Like him, he was great in the splendor of designation, in wisdom, in effort, in success, in the importance of his talents, virtues and labours, to the nation over whom he presided in war and peace ; in the estimation, the love, and the tears of his country. . . . To Americans his name will be ever dear—a savour of sweet incense descending to every succeeding generation."

This eulogy was delivered at the "Brick Meeting House," on the green, at the request of the citizens of New Haven, and afterwards printed. It is now a rare pamphlet. Dr. Dwight had not only met Washington in the field during the Revolution, but possessed every means of forming a correct judgment of him. Among others, Humphreys, his intimate friend, could tell him much, and in his notes to the discourse Dwight states that he was indebted to Tallmadge for interesting facts. In the extracts given we may see Washington as known to the most observing of his contemporaries. One cannot but be impressed with the fidelity of the portrait.



MAJORS WYLLYS AND HEART.

1785-1791.







## MAJORS WYLLYS AND HEART.

In the Regular Army—Wyllys, Senior Major—Stationed in the Ohio Country  
—Recommended for a Colonelcy—Letter from Harmar—First Indian  
War—Harmar's Defeat, and Death of Wyllys—Letters—Heart Promoted  
Major of the Second Regiment—St. Clair's Defeat, and Death of Heart.

WHILE this record properly ends with the close of the Revolutionary War, it would seem to be incomplete in the case of two of the graduates, who, after giving eight years to the cause of independence, soon re-entered the service of the country. They did much in the Revolution ; but were to do as much in after years, until each in similar situations fell heroically in the line of duty. These officers were John Palsgrave Wyllys and Jonathan Heart.

In the present connection their names revive an interesting, though somewhat unfamiliar, piece of history. Our success in the Revolution gave us a western frontier, which Congress was at once called upon to protect, and in April, 1785, a regiment of seven hundred men was raised to take post in the Ohio country, where families from the Atlantic States were beginning to settle. The new regiment was commanded by Lieut.-Col. Josiah Harmar, of Pennsylvania, and its two majors were to be appointed from New York and Connecticut. Wyllys received the appointment from the latter State, and one of its two companies was given to Capt. Heart. Both these graduates, it will be recalled, were Light Infantry

officers with Lafayette in his Virginia campaign, and at the siege of Yorktown. What motive took them again into the service does not clearly appear. Wyllys was now an experienced and accomplished officer, and would have been a natural selection for any responsible post. Heart seems to have gone by preference to assist in surveying and defending a section of the country where some of his friends and former comrades were expecting to settle. His letters, written from Ohio, show him enthusiastic in his new duties.

From 1786 to 1790 Harmar's command, which was originally known as the First American Regiment, or the first of our present regular army, was scattered at various posts along the Ohio and in the territory beyond. Headquarters were originally fixed at Pittsburg, with companies stationed at Fort Washington (now Cincinnati), at Vincennes, at Venango, at points on the Miami, and elsewhere.<sup>1</sup> These years were spent in exploring the country, guarding routes of travel, and in efforts to keep peace with the red man. Beyond this there is little to record. Wyllys, who was senior major, is mentioned by Heart in 1786 as having gone to take command on the Miami, and Major Beatty, Paymaster of the Western Army, makes the entry in his journal for June 15th of that year, that "Major Wyllys, in a barge, set off for Muskingham. The officers accompanied him 5 or

<sup>1</sup>As to the position of the command at one time, Capt. Heart wrote from French Creek, on Oct. 14, 1787, as follows: "All is peace and quiet here, though continued accounts of murders, &c., down the river. No accounts from the Wabash country, where headquarters are at present. An extent of 1350 miles is not a short line for one Regt. to occupy. That is the distance from this post to post Vincent."

6 miles up the river, and regretted parting with so good an officer and agreeable companion." How highly he was thought of appears also in the following extract from a letter written by Col. Harmar to Gov. Huntington of Connecticut, dated "Headquarters, Fort Washington, March 2, 1790":

"It is more than probable that an augmentation of the regular troops will take place (indeed I believe the measure will be found absolutely necessary), in which case suffer me to mention Major Wyllys as a very honest, brave, deserving officer, and in every point of view adequate to the command of a regiment. I am induced to offer this recommendation, not from any solicitation of the major's, but as he is now absent in the Illinois country, and there may be some candidates at home who are upon the courtier establishment, I cannot refrain (from the esteem I have of his character) expressing my wishes to your Excellency upon this occasion."<sup>1</sup>

Captain Heart during this time had the opportunity of seeing much of the country, and he frequently wrote to his friend, Major William Judd, of Farmington, class of 1763, in regard to its resources and prospects. One of his letters contains his views as to the best manner of settling the new territory, and in another he praises the policy of treating the Indians in a strictly friendly and honorable way.

In 1787 he was directed to build a work at Venango, Pa., afterwards known as Fort Franklin, "in order to check the Northern Indians on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania by way of the Allegany River."<sup>2</sup> "The

<sup>1</sup> Appendix to Maj. Denny's Journal, Penn. Historical Society Publications.

<sup>2</sup> "Fort Franklin on French Creek, near to the post formerly called Venango, is a small strong fort with one cannon, erected in 1787, and garrisoned with one company. The excellent construction and execution of this work reflects honor on the abilities and industry of Captain Hart, who garrisons it with his company, and who was his own engineer."—Report of Com. on State of the War Dept., 1788.

United States," wrote Col. Harmar to Heart, "are greatly embarrassed in their Finances and wish to avoid as much as possible an Indian War ; nothing but unprovoked aggression on the part of the Savages on the troops or legal settlers should be an inducement to commence hostilities. . . . I make not the least doubt that you are sufficiently impressed with the importance of this command."

Indian troubles, however, increased, and in 1790 it became necessary to march against the Miami and Wabash tribes with all the force that could then be mustered. Gen. Harmar led the expedition. Leaving Fort Washington, Sept. 30, 1790, with three hundred and twenty regulars under Majors Wyllys and Doughty, and an undisciplined body of about eleven hundred Pennsylvania and Kentucky militiamen under Col. Hardin, he marched northward and on Oct. 17th reached the principal Indian settlements, in the vicinity of present Fort Wayne, Ind. Here he destroyed several villages including the Shawnee town of "Chillakothe." The Indians nevertheless succeeded, on the 19th, in totally defeating a detachment sent out under Hardin to ascertain their whereabouts.

As the command had effected one of its main objects in burning the villages, it took up the return march on the 21st and proceeded eight miles. At this camp Harmar halted and sent back another detachment to waylay and defeat the Indians, who, elated with their surprise of Hardin, would doubtless follow and seriously harass the main body. Three hundred and sixty picked men, sixty of them regulars, were

accordingly detailed for the purpose, and Major Wyllys placed in command. Col. Hardin, anxious to retrieve the disgrace of the 19th, accompanied the detachment as leader of the militiamen. Late at night on the 21st, Wyllys marched out of camp, and crossing the St. Joseph River at the site of Fort Wayne, prepared to surprise the Indians who were supposed to have returned to their burned villages. He divided his force into three parties with instructions to converge at the point of attack. Major Hall on the left was to make a detour to the rear of the savages, Major McMillan took the right, while the regulars under Wyllys, with an improvised company of troopers under Major Fontaine, formed the centre. They had proceeded but a short distance when the militiamen on the right and left, discovering a few Indians in their front, pursued them, contrary to Wyllys' orders, far in advance of the centre company. A large body of Indians noticing this suddenly fell upon the unsupported Wyllys and opened a destructive fire. The regulars bravely standing their ground were in a moment engaged in a terribly close encounter. Fifty out of the sixty fell dead upon the field. Among them was Wyllys. Mortally wounded he asked to be helped upon his horse to give the enemy a last charge, but with men falling about him this could not be done. He died with his comrades, sealing his career as the first of the long line of regular army officers whose lives have been sacrificed in warfare on the frontier. His remains were afterwards buried, with eight or ten others, in a trench on the banks of the Maumee at Fort



Wayne.<sup>1</sup> Capt. Heart, though not engaged in this affair, was in the expedition, and in two letters to Major Judd, gives us some idea of its severity. On Nov. 4th, he writes from Fort Washington :

"We yesterday returned from the expedition against the Miami Villages, that nest of murderers, which we have entirely destroyed. I suppose the history of New England, that seat of Indian wars, scarcely affords an instance of such another bloody action. They fought with desperation. Our loss was great, and amongst the killed we have to drop a tear to the memory of those good men, Maj. Wyllys and L<sup>t</sup> Frothingham. I have not time to enter into particulars."

The second letter, giving "particulars," and dated "Fort Harmar, Dec. 3, 1790," is in part as follows :

"Our troops were formed in three columns, Maj<sup>r</sup> McMullen, with a battallion of militia on the right, Maj<sup>r</sup> Hall on the left, and Maj<sup>r</sup> Wyllys, with the regular troops and a company of horse, in the center. Very soon after crossing the Miami they lost the disposition. Maj<sup>r</sup> Hall, with a party of his men, pursued the few scattering Indians, and had got two miles in front. Maj<sup>r</sup> McMullen had gone more to the right. The commanding officer of the horse, with the fury of a madman, charged the Indians without a single man following him. He fell, and the horse were scattered in confusion. Maj<sup>r</sup> Wyllys, still moving on, the Indians in a large body came round upon his rear from the right, attacked his party with irresistible impetuosity ; numbers fell the first discharge ; the remainder, overpowered by numbers, and no assistance, were compelled to retreat across the main branch of the Miami, about one quarter of a mile from the place where the action commenced. During this the slaughter was great on both sides. By this time a party of Maj. Hall's command and some horse had collected on the opposite shore, and gave the Indians a very warm reception ; but, being very numerous, our men scattered. They crossed in different places. Our parties retreated,

<sup>1</sup> Brice's "History of Ft. Wayne, Ind.," 1868, in which he says that Wyllys was buried "some twenty rods below the residence of J. J. Comparet, Esq.," p. 129, n.



except Maj. McMullen, who, having moved on for some distance, and not hearing of the other columns, returned to the French village, and waiting there some time after the retreat of the others, returned to camp with very little loss. Our loss was a Maj<sup>r</sup>, Lieut. and about 70 men in both actions ; the militia lost something more. The loss of the Indians cannot be exactly ascertained. From the most accurate calculations it is estimated at 120 of their warriors. The general opinion of those late on the field of action is that the number was much greater.

“The testimony of more than one militia man declares that a regular soldier on the retreat near the St. Joseph river, being surrounded and in the midst of the Indians, put his bayonet through six Indians, knocked down the seventh, and the soldier himself made the eighth dead man in the heap. There were many instances in which while the Indian was giving the fatal blow with his tomahawk, he fell by the bayonet, and he who pushed the bayonet fell by the tomahawk in his turn. We returned to headquarters without a single shot being fired afterwards, and though we have every reason to lament the death of Maj<sup>r</sup>. Wyllys, L<sup>t</sup> Frothingham and many other brave men, we may say the expedition, under every consideration, has been as successful as we could expect, and we have every reason to believe, had we not sent back the detachment, more of our men would have been killed by their harassing us on the return than fell in the action.”<sup>1</sup>

The death of Wyllys was greatly regretted. In his general orders and official report to the War Department, Gen. Harmar refers to him as a gallant officer, who “united the talents of a cultivated mind with the best virtues of the heart,” and whose “long and meritorious services claim the grateful remembrance of his country.” The New York and Connecticut Cincinnati societies resolved to wear badges of mourning in his memory, while some sympathetic friend published a tribute to the Major’s worth in

<sup>1</sup> From papers in possession of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

the following lines. The scene is laid by mistake on the "encrimsoned" Wabash :

"There, if e'er chance the traveller shall lead,  
The blood-drenched shore with rev'rence let him tread,  
And mark the spot where oft, at eve unseen,  
The weeping Genii plant the laurel green,  
And Fancy bids her choicest flow'rets rise,  
To deck the lonely grave where WYLLYS lies.

\* \* \* \* \*

"From England's gentlest blood, an honored name,  
In virtues, arts, and arms, long known to fame,  
He sprung :—Where *Hartford* crowns with spiry pride  
Her high romantic banks and crystal tide,  
His infant sports and happier hours were led,  
Till *Yale's* fair laurels graced his youthful head.  
What time the Briton, to our guiltless shore,  
In proud array his thund'ring legions bore,  
When erst Columbia's starry flag unfurl'd  
Show'd a new eagle to the wond'ring world,  
The gallant youth appear'd at freedom's shrine,  
Drew his yet unstain'd steel, and joined the embattled line ;  
There in long toils and dangers tried, he won  
Th' approving smiles of god-like WASHINGTON.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The patriot bands, reliev'd from martial toil,  
Return and court the long-neglected soil :  
Severer cares *his* warrior arms engage—  
To guard the western realm and quell barbarian rage,  
And lo ! on wild *Miami's* dusky plain,  
O'er slaughter'd heaps he leads his victor train ;  
There as the foe in trembling haste retires,  
In glory's arms the hapless chief expires."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Lines on MAJOR WYLLYS, of the Federal Troops, who fell in a late engagement with the Savages at the river St. Joseph, in the Western Territory of the U. States. By a Friend." Printed in *Gazette of the United States*, Feb. 9, 1791.

For Wyllys, his old companion-in-arms and fellow-graduate, Jonathan Heart had a "tear" to shed, little foreboding the parallel fate which was soon to overtake himself.

In the following year occurred St. Clair's great defeat. Harmar's expedition having failed in the suppression of Indian savages, Congress authorized a second attempt with a larger force. Another United States Regiment—the Second Infantry—was organized, and Captain Heart promoted from the First to be one of its majors. The expedition left Fort Washington in October, 1791, and on November 3d encamped on the left bank of the Wabash, where the town of Ft. Recovery, Mercer Co., Ohio, now stands. At sunrise on the 4th, the camp was suddenly attacked by a strong and determined body of Indians. A desperate fight ensued. Many old, experienced officers of the Revolutionary army were in St. Clair's force, and through their exertions and example the troops were kept from retreating in a panic. The deadly fire of the enemy, however, rapidly thinned their ranks, and the day ended with a defeat more disastrous than Braddock suffered in the French and Indian War. The Second Regiment was the only body of regulars on the ground, excepting the Artillery, and it was twice called upon to charge the enemy and drive them from positions where they commanded almost every part of the camp. Major Heart, who had been conspicuous for his bravery throughout the engagement, led the second charge with skill and success for the moment, but the effort, in the absence of sufficient support, proved unavail-

ing as well as terribly fatal. Heart and all but three of the officers of the regiment were killed. Panic and retreat closed the day's disaster.

The commanding officer of the Second Infantry, Lieut.-Col. Darke, was sufficiently brave but without military experience, and according to Col. Winthrop Sargent, St. Clair's Adjutant-General, who was active and observant throughout the engagement, the regiment was in reality in the hands of Major Heart. In his journal of the expedition, speaking of the last charge, Winthrop says: "In the execution of the command to the Second Regiment, which was performed with great order and spirit, the whole merit is due to Heart and his own officers, for the Colonel only went along with them, after the exertion for their formation under a heavy and galling fire from the enemy was over. . . . The Major's conduct through the day was soldierly beyond my expectations."

Heart was something more than the soldier. He interested himself in the survey of lands for new settlers, and was consulted by Gen. Parsons in negotiating for the purchase of the Western Reserve, the outlines of which he agreed to lay down. The Ohio mounds and Indian ethnology also interested him, as we know from his letters, one or more of which were published in the "Transactions of the American Philosophical Society." The naturalist, Dr. Benj. S. Barton, speaks of him in the same publication as "My much lamented friend, Major Jonathan Heart"; and, as in the case of Wyllys, some "friend and class-mate" remembered him with a tribute in poetry

which appeared in the *Hartford Courant* for Jan. 2, 1792, as follows :

“ Could all that nature boasts protect the life,  
My friend had yet survived—his soul was great,  
In friendship true—there softer passions dwelt.  
A child of Science born, with patriot’s mind  
That caught the martial flame, by heaven blest,  
To save a bleeding land. Pleasant in life ;  
How brave in death ? thy country mourns the loss.  
From State to State, the moving tale is told—  
Hart is no more. With wreaths of heaven crown’d,  
His shade arose from the embattled plain,  
Where carnage strow’d the ground. Let dew nor rain  
No more descend, where flow’d the crimson stream ;  
Let angels guard the dust.—Sleep, Hero, sleep ;  
Tho’ flesh dissolves, thy fame immortal lives.”







ROLL OF HONOR,  
WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

#### NOTE ON AUTHORITIES.

IN preparing the following biographical sketches, the writer has confined himself mainly to the Revolutionary career of the graduates. Otherwise, beyond their identification and the insertion of such items as have been readily accessible, not much has been attempted.

The principal data—appointments, promotions, and military services generally—have been obtained largely from manuscript records, there being comparatively little in print containing such details. The following are among the records consulted :

1.—At Washington.—The original rolls of the Conn. Continental Line in the Pension Office. Papers and maps in the Library of Congress. Memoranda from the Department of State. 2.—The "Trumbull" and "Heath" papers in the Mass. Historical Society, Boston. Sparks' Collection, Harvard University Library. 3.—Rolls and papers in the State Library, Hartford, including the Acts of the Council of Safety in the Controller's office, of which Hinman published about one half. The records of the Cincinnati Society and the Wolcott Papers in the Conn. Historical Society. 4.—The "Gates," "Steuben," and other papers in the N. Y. Historical Society. The "Tomlinson" collection, Mercantile Library, N. Y. 5.—Thirty or more order-books relating to the Connecticut troops in the hands of the descendants of Col. Grosvenor, Col. Bradley, Adj. Benjamin, and others, as well as order-books in various historical societies. 6.—Numerous letters and documents in the hands of private individuals, such as the "Webb" MSS., in possession of Gen. Alex. S. Webb, LL.D., N. Y. City ; the "Livingston" collection, owned by S. L. M. Barlow, Esq., N. Y. ; Gen. Silliman's papers, referred to in the text ; Mr. Leffingwell's, in New Haven ; Mr. Matthew Griswold's, Erie, Pa. ; etc., etc. 7.—Pres. Stiles' Diary, Yale Library. Extracts from Major Heart's letters, Cleveland ; Gen. Rufus Putnam's papers, Marietta College, Ohio.

The fac-simile autographs, with a few exceptions, are reproductions of originals found in letters, returns, and various papers of the Revolutionary period.



ROLL OF HONOR  
WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

1775-1783.

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*Class of 1724.*

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JOSHUA BABCOCK,

*Major-General, Rhode Island Militia.*

Although Dr. Babcock, as he was professionally known, was never actively engaged in the field during the Revolution, he stands with propriety at the head of this list, not only as being the earliest graduate who held a commission for service, but also as representing that class of elderly citizens, including many college men, who by personal effort and sacrifices at home contributed materially to the final success.

He lived at Westerly, R. I., a town in which his grand-parents were among the first settlers, and where he was born, May 17, 1707. Becoming both a physician and a merchant he acquired large wealth, and by taking part in public affairs made his name well known throughout the colony. His friend President Stiles states that he "loved to be acquainted with all gentlemen of note in the religious, political, and learned world, and entertained them with a cheerful joy and pleasure at his house, where they were ever welcome." Among such acquaintances was Benjamin Franklin, who visited at the doctor's home on his trips to Boston.

Dr. Babcock was a man of public note both before and during the Revolution. He served as a Deputy in the Rhode Island

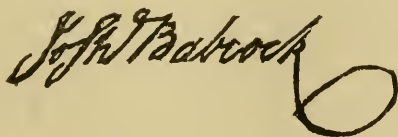
Assembly for ten or more sessions between 1740 and 1778, and sat three times as Justice—twice as Chief Justice—of the Supreme Court of the Colony prior to 1765. In the controversy with the mother country he was outspoken in favor of American liberties, and endorsed all war measures. When Boston was in distress in the fall of 1774, he contributed one hundred dollars to its relief. He assisted in the purchase of arms and payment of bounties to the soldiers, and is said to have advanced considerable sums of money to the State on the public credit. Among his accounts with the State treasurer, December, 1777, is a bill of £200 “for guns, bayonets, and cartouch boxes furnished by him for the use of the town of Westerly.”

In the important Assembly session of May, 1775, the doctor appears to have taken a leading part, as he was delegated to carry the resolution, authorizing the enlistment of an army of observation in Rhode Island, to the Connecticut Assembly, and request that body to transmit in return its “proceedings and transactions relative to the present alarming crisis of affairs.” In September following he visited the American camp around Boston, where his half-brother, James Babcock, of the class of 1752, was a Rhode Island officer, and where his son, Col. Henry Babcock, of the same class, who had served in the French and Indian War, was then, or was soon to be, present as a volunteer. On this occasion he was bearer of an official communication from Gov. Cooke, of Rhode Island, to head-quarters at Cambridge, in which he was introduced as follows to Washington: “This letter waits on you by Joshua Babcock, Esq. He is a gentleman of a genteel fortune, a member of our General Assembly, and hath highly distinguished himself in the glorious cause in which America is embarked.”

In May, 1776, Dr. Babcock was elected by the Assembly, Major-General of the “Colony’s Brigade,” which consisted of ten regiments for the defence of Rhode Island, and in October of the same year the appointment was renewed. As the doctor was then in his seventieth year, this appointment may have been regarded as complimentary, but it was nevertheless a military commission involving responsibility and exercise of good judgment. He certainly was active. In the early part of September, while holding this commission, he was appointed one of a committee of

three to proceed to New York and consult with Washington respecting the defence of Rhode Island. The committee reached the city on the 13th, put up at Gen. Putnam's quarters, No. 1 Broadway, and on the 14th discussed the situation with the Commander-in-Chief and other officers. Dr. Babcock reported the interview by letter to Gov. Cooke (in *MS. R. I. State Archives*, also in *Force*), in which he also gave some interesting facts respecting the abandonment of New York on the 15th. He witnessed our hurried retreat on that day.

When the enemy took Newport, in December, 1776, the doctor was made a member of the State Council of War, and thus for the time being was quite a military character. Under date of Dec. 31st, he wrote to Silas Deane, in Congress at Philadelphia: "Our small but, in the cause of liberty, loyal colony, approachable by vessels of war by its extent of sea coasts, within twenty miles of any port, have now enlisted, and are spiritedly enlisting above half its militia, and one-fourth the remainder on the Alarm List, bound to hold themselves in readiness for action on an emergence as Minute-men. . . . We are making saltpetre everywhere, and hope, if not from abroad, to be internally supplied with Powder soon. In nowise do we despair; for as Providence has signally smiled on our attempts, we hope from the justice of our cause the issue will be crowned with success." He continued on the Council of War in 1777 and 1778, and during the two years following sat in the House of Assistants. His death occurred at the close of the Revolution, when peace was assured, April 1, 1783. A biographical sketch of Dr. Babcock appears in Updike's "History of the Narragansett Church," from the pen of Dr. Levi Wharton, who knew him well, and who says, among other things: "The Doctor was a zealous and enlightened patriot, and as liberally devoted his time and money to the cause, both in a public and private capacity, as a statesman or a citizen, as any of his compatriots."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Babcock". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent. The "J" in John is particularly large and loops around. The signature ends with a large, decorative flourish.

*Class of 1725.*

GURDON SALTONSTALL,

*Brigadier-General, Connecticut Militia.*

Gen. Saltonstall was the oldest graduate who at any time during the contest served in the immediate vicinity of the enemy ; and in his case the term was necessarily brief, his duties with the home militia on the sea-board, as well as his somewhat advanced age, preventing any lengthened stay in the field. His principal service was rendered within his own State.

The General was a son of the Rev. and Hon. Gurdon Saltonstall, tenth Governor of Connecticut, and was born at New London, the residence of the family, Dec. 22, 1708. Inheriting and acquiring social position and influence, he also long held public office. For thirty-four years before his death he was Judge of Probate ; from 1744 to 1757, either member of the Assembly, or of the House of Assistants ; from 1739, Colonel of the Third Regiment of Connecticut Militia. On Sept. 6, 1777—the date being so given in one of his *MS.* letters—he was appointed by Gov. Trumbull Collector of the Port of New London, and held the office for several years.

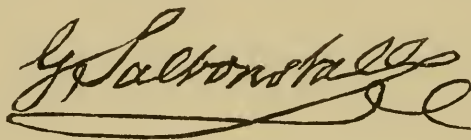
The revolutionary troubles found Saltonstall, in Trumbull's words, "a steady and warm friend to the States of America." In June, 1774, he appears on the town Committee of Correspondence, and on Sept. 8th following he presided over a convention of delegates from the two counties of New London and Windham, convened at Norwich. On March 30, 1775, he wrote to Silas Deane: "Its evident no more troops are at present destined for America ; however, we must by no means relax our utmost preparations to be ready if called to defend by the sword" ; and again : " Let us lie down and rise up with a fixed determination to maintain Liberty for ourselves and posterity." April 25th, after the Lexington alarm, he writes : " A volunteer Town Watch of seventy and upwards this day enlisted to watch six months without reward, save the virtue of doing so ; all my sons are on y<sup>e</sup> roll. Is it not best to dispatch a vessel to W. Indies for more powder ? " He was decidedly of the opinion that the colonies ought to raise a force of a hundred thousand men at once as their reply to ministerial attempt at coercion.



When the war opened he became busily engaged, with others, with plans and preparations for the defence of New London harbor. The Assembly appointed him in May, 1775, one of a committee to report upon the necessary fortifications, and by November following the "old battery" near the town was rebuilt under his own supervision. He had something to say respecting the site of the new works, which were afterwards named Forts Trumbull and Griswold, although their construction was left to engineers. Under the authority of the Assembly, Col. Saltonstall also established a line of alarm stations and post-riders east and west along the Sound, connecting with other lines, and through them reported all occurrences to the governor. Several of his letters, describing the movements of the enemy's vessels in the summer of 1775, are published in the Deane correspondence (Conn. Hist. Soc. Coll., Vol. II.), in Force's archives, and in the *MS.* Trumbull papers. Among the latter papers, for instance, is to be found his first report of their manœuvres off Stonington, beginning as follows: "N. London. Aug<sup>t</sup> 30, 1775.—Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir: This morning early cannon was fired in the eastern board, & have continued firing ever since, & in the last hour about 40. We had advice at 12 C that 2 men of Warr & a tender were firing on the Houses at the Point in Stonington, without provocation, unless it was that the people had bro<sup>t</sup> stock (a small mater) from Block Island," &c.

After the battle of Long Island, August, 1776, Washington called for re-enforcements, and Connecticut sent nine militia regiments from the eastern end of the State. Of this temporary force Col. Saltonstall was appointed Brigadier-General by the Governor and Council September 10, 1776, and three or four days later he set out for the army with his son Gilbert as Brigade-Major. Arriving at Westchester several of his regiments were distributed, by Washington's orders, at and near Kings Bridge and one guarded points on the Sound. On September 30th the General was directed to encamp with his four remaining regiments on Fordham Heights on the east side of the Harlem, opposite the Morris Mansion, where he was posted until the army moved to White Plains three weeks later. Whether he was present at the battle October 28th does not appear. Returning to Connecticut, the Assembly appointed him, in December follow-

ing, Brigadier-General of the Third Brigade of Militia, and with this rank he resumed his duties at New London, guarding the eastern coast of the State. When the enemy set fire to the town in September, 1781, Gen. Saltonstall's "house, two stores, shop, and barn" were destroyed. Two of his sons also suffered heavily. In April, 1782, the General, with other citizens, signed an address to be submitted to the Assembly, calling for disciplined, permanent garrisons for the New London forts as their only protection in the future, the absence of such being given as the reason of the disaster in the previous year. This is about the last time his name appears on any military document of the war. He survived the peace two years—his death occurring at Norwich, while he was visiting there, September 19, 1785.



*Class of 1733.*

BENJAMIN POMEROY, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Rev. Dr. Pomeroy is identified with Hebron, Conn., where he was pastor for nearly fifty years. He served as chaplain of one of the Connecticut regiments during the French and Indian War. Chaplain John Cleaveland, class of 1745, mentions him in his diary for 1758. He also served as chaplain during the Revolutionary War and appears to have been with soldiers of his own State at the siege of Boston, for a short time, and subsequently in the vicinity of New York. In his notice of Dr. Pomeroy, in Sprague's "Annals of the Pulpit," Rev. Dr. Dav. Porter says: "During a part of that arduous and long-continued conflict he was chaplain to the American army, and made powerful appeals to the troops in favor of the vigorous prosecution of the war. His zeal for national liberty was very manifest in his pulpit performances among his own people." The Doctor died Dec. 22,

1784, in the eighty-first year of his age. His obituary notice in the *Conn. Mercury*, Jan. 14, 1785, says: "He was a zealous and able advocate for the civil and religious liberties of his country, and warmed with true patriotism, exposed his life in his old age in camp, in the late war with Britain. He was once pursued and fired upon by a party of the enemy near the lines at New York, as he was riding to visit the hospital, and narrowly escaped death; he left the field in the dear cause of his country, only on account of bodily infirmities."<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1738.*

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DAVID WOOSTER,

*Brigadier-General Continental Army.  
Major-General Connecticut Militia.*

Gen. Wooster's name and services as a soldier of three wars, in each of which he played an honorable part, and his noble sacrifice in the last, are familiar to readers of American history.

A native of the old town of Stratford, Conn., where he was born March 2, 1711, he settled in New Haven about 1748, and in time engaged successfully in business. He married Mary Clapp, daughter of the President of the College, and had four children, of whom a son, Thomas, graduated in the class of 1768 and also served in the Revolution, a part of the time with his father.

Wooster's first public service dates back to the year 1741, when he was appointed Lieutenant on the sloop-of-war "Defence," built by Connecticut to guard her coast during the troubles with Spain, or what was jocularly called in England the war of "Jenkins' Ear." In the following year he was promoted Captain. He appears again for service when the expedition against Louisburg, Cape Breton, was set on foot in the spring of 1745. For that undertaking Connecticut contributed one regiment of five hundred men under Col. Andrew Burr, with Wooster as

<sup>1</sup> NOTE ON THE CHAPLAINS.—About forty graduates are mentioned as having served as chaplains during the Revolution. Most of them were in the State service, or as volunteers, with the militia, and for brief periods at a time; hence the record in their case is often meagre. Chaplains' names seldom appear on the State rolls. We have depended largely on published sketches, genealogies, town histories, and sometimes tradition, for authority for including them in the present list. Full notices of quite a number of them appear in Sprague's "Annals of the American Pulpit."

Senior Captain. According to accepted accounts, upon the capture of the place, July 17th, and in recognition of his soldierly conduct during the siege, he was detailed as one of the officers to effect the exchange of the French prisoners in France, and thence went to England, where he was flatteringly received at court. At about the same time he was appointed Captain in a new regiment of regulars, which was to be raised in America, and the Colonelcy of which was given to Sir William Pepperell, commander of the provincial troops at Louisburg, as one of the rewards of his success. Wooster, who was the ninth Captain with commission dating September 24, 1745, recruited soldiers for the regiment in Connecticut, and then returned to Louisburg, where it was stationed. There he remained in garrison—a part of the time, at least—until the peace in 1748, when the regiment was disbanded and the officers retired on half-pay.

Upon the breaking out of the French and Indian War, seven years later, Wooster again entered the service. His previous record stood to his advantage, and in 1756 the Connecticut Assembly elected him Colonel of the Second Regiment, raised for that year, and in 1758, 1759, and 1760 he commanded the Third Regiment. His immediate superior in the various campaigns was his classmate, Gen. Phineas Lyman, commanding all the Connecticut troops, and with him he served successively under Loudoun, Abercrombie, and Amherst. The Colonel had a share in the important movements, and returned home with added military honors and experience.

When the Revolution opened, Wooster for the third time since his cruise on the sloop "Defence," took up the sword in colonial interests. He was then sixty-four years of age—one of nine survivors of the thirty-two half-pay officers of Pepperell's old Louisburg regiment—but still vigorous and patriotic. As described by his chaplain, Rev. Benjamin Trumbull: "His personal appearance was good, grand, and soldierlike. He was active and cheerful, and retained his activity, cheerfulness and powers remarkably till he fell in the cause of his country."<sup>1</sup> Renouncing his half-pay, he espoused the Revolution. Being a conspicuous veteran of the old wars, the Connecticut Assembly appointed him, April 26, 1775, Major-General of six militia regiments, to be raised imme-

<sup>1</sup> Thanksgiving sermon, North Haven, Dec. 11, 1783.

diately for "the safety and defence of the colony." He was also to command the First as Colonel. As New York was threatened by the British, Gen. Wooster marched with his regiment in that direction, and encamped at Harlem, June 28th. His coming had been urged by the New York Provincial Congress, and a week later, July 6th, the "Old General," as he was frequently called, and his officers, were entertained in "elegant style" by the City Military Club. Here Wooster remained through the summer, except during a portion of August, when he was engaged in collecting stock at the eastern end of Long Island. Meantime Congress, at Philadelphia, appointed Wooster, June 22d, Brigadier-General in the Continental Army, and on Sept. 28th he left New York for Albany to serve in the Northern Department under Gens. Schuyler and Montgomery. With the latter general he marched north into Canada, and took post at Montreal. Upon Montgomery's fall he was left in command in Canada, with a force altogether insufficient for its conquest. On April 1, '76, he took command at Quebec. Gen. Schuyler complained of inactivity and insubordination on Wooster's part, and a Committee of Congress recommended his removal on the ground of incapacity. Wooster afterwards demanded an investigation of his conduct, and satisfactorily answering these charges, was acquitted of blame. John Adams throws some light on this matter in his autobiography. After stating that the report in Wooster's favor was not adopted without a struggle, he adds :

"In this instance again, as in many others, where the same anti-New-England spirit which pursued Commodore Hopkins persecuted Gen. Wooster, I had to contend with the whole host of their enemies, and with the utmost anxiety and most arduous efforts was scarcely able to preserve them from disgrace and ruin, which Wooster had merited even less than Hopkins. In Wooster's case there was a manifest endeavor to lay upon him the blame of their own misconduct in Congress in embarrassing and starving the war in Canada. Wooster was calumniated for incapacity, want of application, and even for cowardice, without a color of proof of either. The charge of cowardice he soon refuted by a glorious and voluntary sacrifice of his life, which compelled his enemies to confess he was a hero."

In the sharp correspondence between Schuyler and Wooster as to affairs in Canada, the latter says in one of his letters, Feb. 11, 1776: "Since I have been in the army I have exerted every faculty to promote a union among the officers, and have carefully



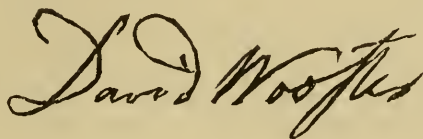
avoided every thing that might have the least tendency to cause jealousy. . . . This is no time to altercation ; the whole of our time is little enough to attend to the operations absolutely necessary for the defence of our country." He seems to have been uniformly governed by this spirit. Upon returning from Canada he was ordered to report to his home in Connecticut. No further Continental service was expected of him, and his resignation was probably looked for. As stated in the text, however, he did not resign, but while awaiting Continental orders, accepted new service in the State. Connecticut reappointed him Major-General of Militia, Oct. 23, 1776, and from that time until the following spring he commanded on the Western border. The fact that Congress ordered a monument erected to his memory, would be sufficient proof that he was in the service at the time of his death ; but the point is settled beyond question in the memorial for the General's pay presented to the Legislature, May 21, 1777, by his son Thomas, in which he says, referring to the interval from October, 1776, to May 2, 1777 : " During the whole of which time said deceased was in the pay of the Continent as a Brig<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>, which your memorialist expects to be able to obtain," &c. (*MSS. State Library.*)

The closing event in the General's career is noticed in the text (p. 71). He met a soldier's fate in fighting the enemy on the Danbury raid. The inscription ordered by Congress to be placed on the proposed monument is arranged as follows on the printed minutes :

In Honor of  
DAVID WOOSTER,  
Brigadier-General in the Army of the  
United States ;  
In defending the Liberties of America,  
and bravely repelling an Inroad of the British  
Troops, to Danbury, in Connecticut,  
he received a mortal wound,  
on the 27th Day of April, 1777,  
and died on the 2 of May following.  
The Congress of the United States,  
as an Acknowledgement of his Merits and Services,  
have caused this Monument  
to be erected.



No monument was put up until 1854, the expense of which was borne by citizens of Connecticut. It stands over his grave at Danbury.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Wooster". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

*Class of 1741.*

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JABEZ HUNTINGTON,

*Major-General, Connecticut Militia.*

The sketch of Gen. Huntington in the "Huntington Family Memoir" and the references to him in Hinman's "Connecticut," indicate his influence and standing before the public during the Revolution. He lived at Norwich, where, as a merchant, he had acquired large wealth. During the Revolution he was prominent as a member of the Upper House of Assistants, as well as of the State Committee of Safety. He had four sons in the service—one of them Gen. Jedidiah, graduate of Harvard, and another, Col. Ebenezer, class of 1775, Yale, frequently mentioned in the text. He also held militia commissions himself. In Dec., 1776, he was appointed Second Major-General of the State, and upon the death of General Wooster he was promoted, May, 1777, "first Major-General over all the militia." He seems to have turned out with them on alarms whenever his health permitted. One instance is mentioned when, early in September, 1778, a fleet of British ships appeared off New London, and the militia, to the number of about four thousand, hastened to the town. The *Gazette* of that place for Sept. 11, 1778, says: "Great praise is due to the militia of the neighboring towns, who, on that occasion, so generally and with so great alacrity, came to our assistance; Major-General Huntington was so sensible of this, that on Saturday the several regiments, being drawn up, received his thanks in general orders." His exertions in the public service affected his health and he retired from office in 1779. He died Oct. 5, 1786, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON,

*Governor of New Jersey.  
Brigadier-General, State Militia.*

The "Life" of Gov. Livingston, by Theodore Sedgwick, Jr., published in 1833, and the nine volumes of his correspondence now in possession of Samuel L. M. Barlow, Esq., of New York, are the principal memorials extant of this staunch supporter of the Revolution. He was born at Albany, Nov. 30 (?), 1723, studied law, and became distinguished in his profession in New York City. Having literary tastes, he wrote reviews, letters, and satires, and twice edited a paper. He took an interest in questions of the day, and exerted no slight influence. In 1772 he removed to Elizabethtown, N. J., and in 1774 was sent as a delegate to the First Continental Congress. He was a member also in '75 and '76, but was engaged in other service at the time the Declaration was adopted, so that his signature does not appear on that document.

On Oct. 28, 1775, the New Jersey Legislature appointed Livingston Brigadier-General of the Militia, and in the summer of 1776, while embodying and disciplining the troops, he had a brief experience in camp at Elizabethtown Point, opposite the enemy, on Staten Island. In a letter to Mr. Hooper, delegate from North Carolina, he says, Aug. 29th: "You would really be astonished to see how grand I look, while at the same time I can assure you I was never more sensible (to use a New England phrase) of my own *nothingness* in military affairs. I removed to my quarters from the town hither to be with the men, and to enure them to discipline. . . . My ancient corporeal fabric is almost tottering under the fatigue I have lately undergone: constantly rising at 2 o'clock in the morning to examine our lines, which are very extensive, till daybreak, and from that time perpetually till eleven in giving orders, sending despatches, and doing the proper business of quartermasters, colonels, commissaries, and I know not what." His stay in the field was brief; for on Aug. 31, 1776, he was elected Governor of the State, a position to which he was regularly re-elected until his death in 1790. In this capacity he was to prove invaluable. The Tories hated and abused him heartily; but his faith in the cause, his influence with his people, his tact,

wit, and resources combined to make him a governor for the times. A thankless and burdensome office during the war, he filled it to the best advantage for the country, especially assisting Washington and his army, who so often encamped and fought on Jersey soil. The Governor's letter to Steuben, printed in the text, shows what he was made of, and much more of like character might be quoted both from his published and unpublished papers. With Clinton, of New York, and Trumbull, of Connecticut, he may be regarded as a true "war governor" of the Revolution. His death occurred at Elizabeth, N. J., July 25, 1790. An obituary notice, published in the *United States Gazette* for July 28, 1790, says: "In his death America sustains the loss of one of her most distinguished patriots, and the republic of letters a very brilliant ornament. Born and educated in this country, his whole life was a constant succession of services to promote its best interests, and in every public department he discharged his duty with great ability and the most conscientious integrity." Reference to his father and brothers appears on page 5.

*W. Livingston*

NOAH WELLES, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Stamford, Conn. His attachment to colonial interests was shown in Stamp Act times, when he openly preached resistance against ministerial interference. "He died in office," says Prof. Dexter, "after just thirty years of faithful ministry, Dec. 31, 1776, at the age of fifty-eight, from jail-fever, contracted while serving as chaplain to British prisoners in the American Army."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Welles's classmate, Rev. Dr. James Sproat, of Philadelphia, is mentioned in the Journals of Congress as writing to that body respecting hospital service. He may have served as Hospital Chaplain with Dr. Spencer in the "Middle District" for a time.

Rev. Dr. Moses Mather, class of 1739, pastor in Middlesex parish (Darien), Stamford, is sometimes mentioned as having been chaplain. His patriotism and cruel treatment by the enemy are well known, but he does not appear to have been with troops in camp.

*Class of 1743.*

STEPHEN JOHNSON,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Lyme. A patriotic preacher who was appointed Chaplain to Colonel Samuel H. Parsons' State Regiment in May, 1775, and who went with it to the Boston siege. He was there several months. Dr. Stiles speaks of meeting him in camp, in September. See text, p. 24. Mr. Johnson died Nov. 8, 1786, aged sixty-two.

*Class of 1745.*

JOHN CLEAVELAND,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts.*

Pastor at Ipswich, Mass. ; born at Canterbury, Conn., April 11, 1722. He was chaplain of Col. Bagley's Massachusetts Regiment in the French and Indian War, when he kept an interesting diary which appears in the publications of the Essex Institute, Salem, for 1874-1875. In 1775 he was with the troops for a season during the Boston siege ; and in the fall of 1776 he appears in Washington's army as chaplain of Col. Jonathan Cogswell's Essex County Militia. The regiment reached camp just before the battle of White Plains and was assigned to Parsons' brigade. It returned in December or January following. Mr. Cleaveland did not serve again. He died April 22, 1799.<sup>1</sup>

SAMUEL TUTHILL,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, New Jersey Troops.*

A physician of Morristown, N. J. He appears on patriotic committees in Morris Co., in 1775, and on Oct. 27th, of that year, he was commissioned Lieut.-Colonel of Col. Matthias Williamson's regiment of light horse to be raised in the eastern part of the State. Colonel Tuthill resigned soon after, on Feb. 3, 1776, and his name does not appear again on the New Jersey rolls. He died May 31, 1814, aged seventy-nine.

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Nathanael Taylor, of this class, is mentioned in the sketch of his son, Lieut. Aug. Taylor, class of 1776.

# Roll of Honor.

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Class of 1746.

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LEWIS MORRIS,

*Signer, Declaration of Independence.  
Brigadier-General, New York Militia.*

General Morris represented the well-known colonial family of the manor of Morrisania, Westchester Co., N. Y., being the fifth proprietor and third lord of the estate. Gov. Lewis Morris, early Governor of New Jersey, was his grandfather. He was born April 8, 1726, and upon inheriting his large property spent his time in improving it. In 1775 he was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and went again in 1776, when he signed the Declaration. Previous to this, or June 6, 1776, the New York Provincial Congress appointed him Brigadier-General of the Westchester Militia; but his duties in Congress and the affairs of his family, who were compelled to leave their mansion in view of military operations in August and September, prevented him from serving. On June 25, 1778, however, he was reappointed Brigadier-General, and went into camp with the militia of his county. Among Gov. Clinton's MSS., Albany, is a note from Washington to Gen. Charles Scott, Oct. 17, 1778, instructing him "to supply such small parties of Militia with Provisions as Gen. Morris shall think necessary for the Protection of the Farmers, who by their situation are liable to be interrupted in their farming business," and "to second the Militia in this Duty as much as circumstances will allow."

For a time during the war Gen. Morris lived in New Jersey. At its close he returned to his estate, which he describes as having suffered "every injury that it could possibly experience from the hand of devastation." On May 6, 1784, he was appointed Assistant Judge of Westchester County, and in 1786 appears as Senator and member of the Council of Appointment. He was also appointed Major-General of the Southern Division of the State, and as such was buried with military honors upon his death, Jan. 22, 1798. His remains were placed in the family vault at Morrisania. An extract from his obituary notice reads: "With his friends he was highly esteemed; for he possessed those qualities which render the friend truly valuable. To an



uncommon degree of cheerfulness of disposition were united as genuine philanthropy and hospitality as ever graced or warmed the bosom of man."

*Lewis Morris B. G.*

JOHN MORIN SCOTT,

*Brigadier-General, New York State Troops.*

A leading citizen and advocate of New York, and one of the early graduates of the College from this city. Chancellor Kent's estimate of him appears on page 6, and Col. Varick, afterwards Mayor of New York, who studied law with the General, speaks of him in a private letter in the same high terms of appreciation.

Scott was born in New York in 1730, the only child of John and Marian Morin Scott. His grandfather, who was third son of Sir John Scott, Baronet, of Ancrum, County Roxbury, Scotland, settled in New York as a merchant some time before 1700. As a lawyer Scott was eminently successful, and is mentioned by John Adams as being one of the leaders of the bar in 1775. At that time he lived in a country seat, "three miles out of town," or near the corner of Thirty-third Street and Ninth Avenue. He took an active part against parliamentary interference, and "as a powerful public speaker in favor of the colonial cause, might be called the Samuel Adams or James Otis of New York." In 1775-76 he was a member of the Provincial Committee and Congress. On June 9, 1776, he was commissioned Brigadier-General of a New York State brigade of three thousand men to reinforce Washington, and with it he was stationed in the city until the battle of Long Island. After that battle his brigade was ordered over to the Brooklyn lines. The General wrote an interesting letter describing the situation to John Jay, a portion of which is given on page 48. He was a member of the Council which resolved upon the retreat from Long Island. His brigade was also caught in the forced retreat from the city, Sept. 15th, after which it moved with the army to Harlem Heights and White Plains.



When Washington marched into New Jersey General Scott took post under Heath, on the Hudson, near Peekskill, and there remained on duty until March 1, 1777, when his commission expired. Retiring from the service he became Secretary of State, March 13, 1778, and in 1780 was elected a member of the Continental Congress, serving three terms. He was also a State Senator, and a member of the New York Cincinnati Society. During the war he lived at Hurley, not far from Kingston, and upon the evacuation of New York by the enemy he returned to his native city. His health, however, was poor, and he survived but about a year longer, his death occurring Sept. 14, 1784. He was buried in Trinity churchyard. The New York *Journal*, of Thursday, Sept. 16, 1784, notices his death as follows : "DIED—On Tuesday evening last, at 7 o'clock, in an advanced stage of life, the Hon. JOHN MORIN SCOTT, Esq., Secretary of the State ; lately one of the members to represent this State in the Hon. Continental Congress ; member of the Hon. Senate during the war ; Brigadier-Gen. of the Militia ; and very eminent as a Lawyer for many years in this City. In him his country has lost a steady Friend, Society a useful Member, and his Friends and acquaintance a sincere and affectionate Companion. We hear that his remains are to be interred this day."

Two of Gen. Scott's letters appear in the text, one written in 1777, the other in 1778.

ELIHU SPENCER, D.D.,

*Hospital Chaplain, Continental Army.*

Rev. Dr. Spencer, of Trenton, N. J., was Chaplain to the New York troops in the French and Indian war, campaign of 1758. He was in the same camp with, and frequently met, Chaplains

Pomeroy and Cleaveland, already mentioned. Like them, he appeared again in the Revolution. On Sept. 18, 1777, Congress voted to appoint Chaplains for the hospitals in each military department, "at sixty dollars a month, three rations, and forage for one horse." Dr. Spencer received the appointment for the "Middle District," which included New Jersey, Oct. 20, 1777. How long he served in this position does not appear. He was born Feb. 12, 1721; died Dec. 18, 1784.

EZRA STILES.

*President of Yale College, 1778-95.*

As the Connecticut branch of the Cincinnati Society, an association of Revolutionary officers, elected Dr. Stiles a member in 1784, in recognition, no doubt, of his high patriotism and confidence throughout the struggle, we may include his name in this connection for a similar reason—*causâ honoris*. The most appropriate tribute to his memory that can be inserted here is that delivered by Chancellor Kent before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Yale in 1831—the Chancellor having entered college in 1778, upon the accession of Dr. Stiles to the Presidency: ✓

"President Stiles' zeal for civil and religious liberty was kindled at the altar of the English and New England Puritans, and it was animating and vivid. A more constant and devoted friend to the Revolution and Independence of this country never existed. He had anticipated it as early as the year 1760, and his whole soul was enlisted in favor of every measure which led on gradually to the formation and establishment of the American Union. The frequent appeals which he was accustomed to make to the heads and hearts of his pupils, concerning the slippery paths of youth, the grave duties of life, the responsibilities of man, and the perils and hopes and honors and destiny of our country, will never be forgotten by those who heard them; and especially when he came to touch, as he often did, with 'a master's hand and prophet's fire,' on the bright vision of the future prosperity and splendor of the United States."

Autograph on p. 140.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Fitch, of this class, son of Gov. Fitch, class of 1721, was a Colonel of Fairfield Co. Militia. He is mentioned as having hurried off companies to reinforce Washington in the summer of 1776; and again his regiment was with Wooster at and beyond Rye in the following winter for a short time. Whether he went in person on either occasion does not appear. He was prominent in his town as a committeeman and representative. Born at Norwalk, Aug. 12, 1725; died there Jan. 15, 1795.

He entered in Sept. 1777 and was the  
 President of Congress. See the letter  
 in the Kent Hist. Society of Congress  
 1831. May 18, 1778.

# Roll of Honor.

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## Class of 1747.

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OLIVER WOLCOTT,

*Signer, Declaration of Independence.*

*Major-General, Connecticut Troops.*

The elaborate Wolcott "Memorial" volume, edited by the late Rev. Dr. Samuel Wolcott, Class of 1833, is the authority for most of the facts in the present sketch of Gen. Oliver Wolcott of the Revolution. It contains documents and letters from his pen not heretofore printed.

Gen. Wolcott was born at Windsor, Conn., Dec. 20, 1726, but his home, in after years, was at Litchfield. He served as captain one campaign, 1748, in the war against the French on the Canada border, and, returning, practised medicine for a short time. After 1751 he generally held some public office. He became successively sheriff, representative, member of the Governor's Council, Probate Judge, Judge of the County Court, and Member of Congress. In 1774 he was Colonel of the 17th militia regiment. After the Revolution he rose still higher, becoming what his father, Roger, and his son, Oliver, were in their time—Governor of Connecticut.

Much of the time during the Revolution Wolcott was in the field or attending Congress. He was a member of the latter body in 1776, when he signed the Declaration of Independence. His classmate, Lyman Hall, then living in Georgia, was also one of the "signers." Being at home temporarily for his health, the State Council of Safety appointed him, Aug. 12, 1776, Brigadier-General of nine militia regiments ordered to join the army at New York. Wolcott took the command, with commission dated Aug. 15th, and was in the city at the time of the battle of Long Island. His regiments being soon distributed in new brigades, he returned to Connecticut, and in November took his seat again in Congress. He was with that body when it retired for safety from Philadelphia to Baltimore in December. Being at home in the fall of 1777, he received an urgent request from Gen. Gates to reinforce him with Conn. militia. Wolcott had been appointed by the Legislature, Dec., 1776, permanent Brigadier of the Sixth Militia Brigade, and as such he called for volunteers to go with him to Gates' army. Three hundred started on horseback and reached

camp about ten days before Burgoyne's surrender. One of his letters from that point is given in the text. From Feb. to July, 1778, he was again in Congress. In the summer of 1779 he was especially active in obtaining information respecting the movements of the enemy, who were threatening to enter Connecticut through Westchester County, while Tryon was at New Haven. His papers, deposited in the Connecticut Historical Society, contain several letters conveying minute intelligence to Washington's camp in regard to Clinton's whereabouts. He had called out the militia, and at the same time wrote earnestly to Washington for help, in view of the enemy's descent on the coast. Washington replied: "Be assured, sir, that I have felt much pain at the destruction of your towns, and had been unhappy that I could not, consistent with the general good, afford such an aid of continental troops as might have prevented it. I hope, however, that the late fortunate attack on Stony Point will tend to give a check to the continuance of the ravages in your State." Some time before this Wolcott had been promoted Major-General of the militia, although the date does not appear. In 1780-81 he again went to Congress. In 1786 he was elected Lieut.-Governor of Connecticut, and later held the rank of Lieut.-General of the militia. In 1796-97 he was Governor of the State. His public services had thus been continuous and important for many years, and especially during the Revolution was he active and always confident of ultimate success. He died at Litchfield, Dec. 1, 1797. His autograph appears on page 42, it being a fac-simile of the one appended to the Declaration.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1748.*

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EBENEZER CLEVELAND,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts.*

Younger brother of Chaplain John Cleveland, class of 1745. His principal pastorate was at Gloucester, Mass. He became

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Chauncey Graham, of this class, resided at Fishkill, N. Y., where he had charge of an academy. On Nov. 26, 1776, he was requested by the N. Y. Provincial Congress to take care of sick soldiers, as a physician "at the Continental expense." He was doing so as late as Jan., 1777.

Writing to Gen. Heath, Nov. 29, 1776, Mr. Graham says: "If you know where my kinsman Dr. Graham is you will advise me in your next." This was probably Dr. John Augustus Graham, Class of 1768, of White Plains, a patriotic man whose house was burned by the enemy after the battle there.

chaplain of Col. Jonathan Ward's regiment from Massachusetts, Jan. 1, 1776, and served to the end of the year. It was with Washington at New York, and engaged in part at the battle of Long Island. The chaplain is reported as being on "furlough" in October. The regiment was the 21st Continental Foot, raised for service during 1776. Mr. Cleaveland died July 4, 1805.

NAPHTALI DAGGETT, D.D.,

*Ex-President of the College.  
Volunteer.*

President Daggett is identified with the war on the occasion of the New Haven raid, in 1779, an account of which appears in the text. His patriotism and courage are proverbial. He was among the first to start out to meet the enemy, but soon fell into their hands. After receiving much cruel treatment he was permitted to remain in New Haven; but the shock was such that he never fully recovered from its effects, and his death followed, Nov. 25, 1780.

Dr. Daggett was born at Attleboro, Mass., Sept. 8, 1727. His brother, Col. John Daggett, of that place, was a man of note and an efficient militia officer in the Revolution. The Doctor was called to the church at Smittown, L. I., in 1751, where he remained until 1755, when he returned to the college to fill the new Livingston Chair of Divinity. In 1766 he became President of the College, and retained the position until 1777. He continued his relations with the college, as Professor of Divinity, until his death. His two sons, Henry and Ebenezer, both graduates, entered the service. Dr. Daggett's own account of his experiences and capture has been printed several times. It does not differ materially from Mr. Goodrich's description in the chapter for 1779-80, pages 106-8.

*Naphtali Daggett*

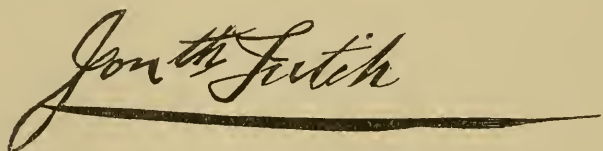
JONATHAN FITCH,

*Colonel and Commissary, Connecticut.*

Colonel Fitch had been the steward of the College for several years before the war; also Naval Officer at New Haven. He



was Colonel of the 2d militia regiment. In May, 1775, he was appointed a State Commissary by the Legislature, and the duties of this office appear to have engaged his attention most of the time during the war. He was purchaser of goods and stores of all kinds both for State and Continental troops. One of his public notifications dated New Haven, Nov. 16, 1778, is as follows: "The several Towns in the County of New Haven are hereby notified immediately to bring to me the Quota of Cloathing to be furnished by them for their soldiers in the Continental army, particularly the Blankets, as they are much wanted the present distressing season — Captain Prentice having been sent from camp by General McDougal to forward the cloathing to the camp as soon as possible. Jonathan Fitch, Commissary." Col. Fitch was born in Norwalk, Conn., April 12, 1727, and died in New Haven, Sept. 22, 1793.



JOHN HOTCHKISS,

*Volunteer.*

Resident of New Haven; born Nov. 12, 1731. He went out with the volunteers to resist the British on the morning of Tryon's invasion, July 5, 1779, and was killed, it would appear, at an early hour. Dr. Stiles states that he fell on Milford Hill, beyond West Bridge, a short time before his classmate, Dr. Daggett, was captured.

JAMES WADSWORTH,

*Major-General, Connecticut Militia.*

A good sketch of Gen. Wadsworth appears in the history of Durham, Conn., where he lived, and where he was born July 6, 1730. He became a lawyer and also held public office, such as that of Town Clerk and State representative, and on May 26, 1778, was appointed Judge of the New Haven County Court.



Upon the Lexington alarm, Wadsworth, then Colonel, exerted himself in hurrying troops off to Boston. A letter of the time states that he was in Wallingford "most of Sunday," April 23, 1775, and had ordered twenty men from each regiment of his brigade to march the next day. He also went himself, but apparently not to remain long. On June 20, 1776, he was commissioned Brigadier-General over seven State regiments raised to reinforce Washington at New York. Four of these, as stated on page 37, were commanded by graduates. They were engaged in part or in whole at the battle of Long Island, retreat from New York, Harlem Heights, and White Plains. Upon the death of Gen. Wooster, Gen. Wadsworth, who had been made Brigadier of the Second Militia Brigade in December, 1776, was promoted May, 1777, second Major-General, and as such looked after the militia during the remainder of the war. In October, 1777, he was with Putnam on the Hudson, who endeavored to prevent the British from forming a junction with Burgoyne above. Several of Gen. Wadsworth's letters to Gov. Trumbull, describing movements in that quarter, are among the Trumbull papers, Boston. In one letter he proposes that David Bushnell be sent to blow up the enemy's ships off Kingston. Thereafter he appears to have been active in the State, at one time being with troops at New London on the occasion of an alarm. He is described as "a large, erect, military figure." His death occurred September 22, 1817. James and William Wadsworth, who settled at Geneseo, N. Y., were his nephews.



*Class of 1749.*

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NATHANIEL BARTLETT,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Mr. Bartlett acted as Chaplain to the troops quartered from time to time at or near Redding, Conn., where he was settled. He died Jan. 11, 1810, aged eighty-three years.

THOMAS RUSSELL,

*Surgeon, Connecticut Troops.*

He is mentioned in the records as surgeon of Col. Heman Swift's Connecticut Regiment, which was on duty in the Northern Department during the latter half of 1776. A native of North Guilford, born Oct. 16, 1727. He died in 1803 at Piermont, N. H., where he had settled.

JOSEPH STRONG,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

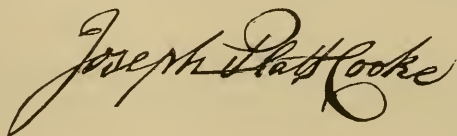
Pastor at Simsbury (Granby), Conn.; afterwards at Williamsburg, Mass. He served as chaplain of Cols. Chapman's and Pettibone's militia regiments in Gen. Wolcott's command in Aug.-Sept., 1776, in and around New York. Born, Coventry, Conn., March 19, 1729; died, Goshen, Mass., Jan. 1, 1803.

*Class of 1750.*

JOSEPH PLATT COOKE,

*Colonel, Connecticut Militia.*

Resident of Danbury, Conn.; born December 24, 1729. He was a man of considerable influence and property. In 1776 he was Colonel of the 16th militia regiment, which formed part of Gen. Wolcott's force in New York in August and September, 1776. At the time the enemy captured the city, September 15th, Col. Cooke was in Douglas' Brigade, stationed along Kip's Bay, at the foot of East Thirty-Fifth St., which was driven from its position by the short-range fire of the British men-of-war. It retreated in something of a panic, and formed part of the force which Washington endeavored in vain to rally that day. Col. Cooke afterwards turned out against Tryon in the Danbury raid, and was probably with Putnam's force on the Hudson during the Burgoyne campaign. He died Feb. 3, 1816, aged eighty-seven.



# *Roll of Honor.*

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## *Class of 1751.*

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JUDAH CHAMPION,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Litchfield, Conn. He was born at Haddam, May 21, 1724, and died October 8, 1810. Devotedly attached to the cause, he is said to have often preached war sermons. During Burgoyne's campaign he acted as Chaplain, to a Connecticut regiment probably, and took especial care of the sick and wounded.

GILES RUSSELL,

*Colonel, Continental Army.*

Colonel Russell's record is that of a worthy man and experienced soldier, who gave nearly twelve years of his life to the public and died in its service. He came of good stock, being grandson of Rev. Noadiah Russell, one of the founders of Yale College, and son of Rev. Daniel Russell, class of 1724, of Rocky Hill, Conn. The Colonel was born at the latter place, November 8, 1729.

The French and Indian war breaking out a few years after his graduation, Russell joined the Provincial forces and took part in various campaigns to the close. He served throughout with the Rhode Island quota, doubtless having friends in that colony, and received several promotions. Appointed first as Ensign September, 1756, he was made Lieutenant, February, 1756, Adjutant in March, 1758, and again in February, 1759 (when the regiment was commanded by Col. Henry Babcock, of the class of 1752), and Captain, 1760 to 1763. He served under Johnson, Loudoun, Abercrombie, and Amherst. In the attack upon Ticonderoga, July 8, 1758, he was wounded, but was present again, it would appear, in the following year, at the recovery of Crown Point. He also took part in the expedition against Havanna in 1762, where he lost half his company from the severities of the climate.

Returning to Connecticut, Russell settled at Stonington about the time of the peace, 1763-64, and practised law until the Revolution. In that crisis, he again stepped forward and joined the common cause. The Connecticut Assembly appointed him Major of Col. Selden's State Regiment, June 20, 1776, and later

July 2, Lieutenant-Colonel of Sage's Regiment, with which he served in Washington's army in and around New York, until the close of the year. His brigade was present in the Long Island retreat, at Kip's Bay, and the battle of White Plains. Upon the reorganization of the army, he was appointed, Jan. 1, 1777, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Eighth Connecticut Continental Line, Col. Chandler's (Y. C. 1759), which fought at the battle of Germantown and wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78. In Nov. 1777, he was assigned to relieve Col. Smith, of Maryland, who had been bravely defending Mud Island Fort below Philadelphia, but he requested to be recalled on account of illness. Gen. Varnum, his Brigadier, speaks of him at the time as "an amiable, sensible man, and an excellent officer, but exhausted by fatigue and totally destitute of health." Chandler resigning at Valley Forge, Russell was promoted Colonel in his place, March 13, 1778. He was present at Monmouth, as stated on p. 90, being in command of his brigade part of the time, and was again with his regiment when ordered to march into Connecticut at the time of Tryon's raid, July, 1779. But here again his old wound troubled him and he stopped at Danbury. The only letter from his pen that can be found is dated from that place July 17th. He says to Heath: "My leg is in such a condition that I must beg Leave to stay here a few Days under the care of Doctor Turner, who I hope will soon patch it up, so that I may Join the Troops." He seems, however, to have failed after this as he died at Danbury, Oct. 28th, following. Respecting his death and his successor, see p. 110. The following obituary notice of the Colonel appears in the *New London Gazette*, Nov. 10, 1779:

" . . . He received an early and liberal education at Yale College, New Haven: The profitable Improvement he made of those Advantages was conspicuously exemplified in his Life and conversation: The brightness of his Parts, the solidity of his Judgment, and the candor and generosity of his Temper, distinguished him as the Scholar and Philosopher. Whenever the Safety of his Country demanded his Assistance, he readily entered into the most active Posts of Life and faced the greatest Dangers, Fatigues, and Distress with a Constancy and firmness of Mind, which plainly showed that the interest of his Country was an object which claimed his highest attention. He served as an officer during the whole term of the late war, to Universal acceptance, in which war he received Wounds, which might be judged, had rendered him unfit, in a great measure for Action; but notwithstanding, at the Commence-

ment of the present, he plainly shewed that *that* martial Ardour which had fired his Breast heretofore, was not extinguished, but blazed with additional Warmth ; and upon Requisition made, cheerfully stepped forth in Defence of his injured Country ; and from June, 1776, to the Time of his Death, attended Duty in the Field almost constantly, having visited his Family but few times, and those very short. . . . He often manifested the highest Sense, with firm dependence on, and reverential Fear of, that Almighty Being, who governs universal Nature uncontroul'd. In private Life, he was happily possessed of those amiable Qualities requisite for forming domestic Peace, conjugal Felicity, and Paternal love. He has left a mournful widow, in a very low and debilitated state, and an affectionate and only Daughter to lament his Death."

*Giles Purser 6013*

COTTON MATHER SMITH,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Sharon, Conn.; born at Suffield, Oct. 26, 1731. He was appointed Chaplain of Col. Benjamin Hinman's Connecticut State Regiment, April, 1775, which served for that year at Ticonderoga and in Canada under Montgomery and Wooster. He died Nov. 27, 1806.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1752.*

HENRY BABCOCK,

*Colonel, Rhode Island Brigade.*

Eldest son of Dr. Joshua Babcock, class of 1724, whose name appears at the head of this roll. In recollections of the Babcocks published in the "History of the Narragansett Church," Dr. Wheaton says that Henry "was a brilliant and extraordinary man, formed by nature and education to be the flower of his family and an ornament to the country which gave him birth."

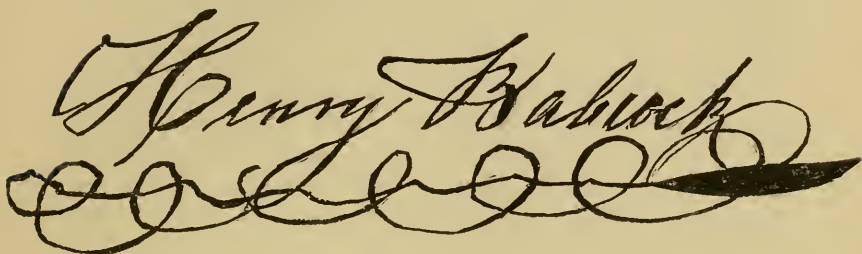
<sup>1</sup> Col. Thomas Belden, of this class, is mentioned in the sketch of his son, E. P. Belden, class of 1775.



The Colonel was born at Westerly, R. I., April 28, 1736. He graduated in his seventeenth year at the head of his class. Three years later he took the field in the French and Indian war, being appointed, March, 1755, Captain in the R. I. Provincial Regiment. In August, 1756, he was promoted Major, a year later Lieut.-Colonel, and in May, 1758, full Colonel. He was then but twenty-two years old. In the attack upon Ticonderoga, July 8, 1758, his regiment lost 110 men killed and wounded, and he was wounded himself in the knee. He served five campaigns with reputation. At the close of the last one, Gen. Amherst wrote to Gov. Hopkins of R. I. (in Force, 4th ser., vol. vi.): "Whereas Col. Babcock has throughout the whole campaign continually manifested his great zeal for the public service, I should not do him justice, were I to omit giving him this public testimony of it, and designing you to return him my particular thanks for the same." When the Revolution broke out he served as a volunteer at the Boston camps for a time, putting up, apparently, at Gen. Putnam's head-quarters. He was there in the fall of 1775, and on Dec. 1, Putnam wrote to Washington, recommending him for the position of Brigadier-General, as follows: "I have been upon service with him several campaigns the last war, and have seen him in action behave with great spirit and fortitude, when he had the command of a regiment. He has been very serviceable in assisting me in quelling a mutiny, and bringing back a number of deserters. . . . I know of no man who will fill the vacancy with more honour than the gentleman above named." (Force.) This recommendation, however, was not acted upon, and when he returned home, he was appointed Colonel of R. I. Militia, Jan., 1776, and in March, Colonel-Commandant of the R. I. Colony Brigade. His orders to his command are noticed on pp. 33-4, as well as his success in keeping off the enemy's men-of-war. It appears that he was not in good health and that his conduct at times required his removal from command, which was voted by the Assembly in May following. Not having "the perfect use of his reason" was the ground assigned. Col. Babcock afterwards lived at Stonington, Conn., where he died Oct. 7, 1800. Gen. Saltonstall says of him in 1775: "If he is in perfect health, he is undoubtedly at such time a gallant soldier." One of his MSS. letters is to be found in



the "Gates" papers, N. Y. Hist. Soc., in which he congratulates that General on the capture of Burgoyne. The "Trumbull" papers also contain one or two of his letters, as well as the published R. I. Colonial Records.



JAMES BABCOCK,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Rhode Island.*

Of Westerly, R. I., where he was born, Nov. 1, 1734. He was half-brother to Dr. Joshua Babcock. In May, 1775, he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of Varnum's R. I. regiment, which was a part of the "Army of Observation" which went from that colony to the siege of Boston. He was in camp there under Gen. Greene, probably to the close of the year. In 1776 he was a member of the R. I. Assembly, and in 1777 is mentioned as engaged in sending recruits to the Army. He died in 1781.

GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN,

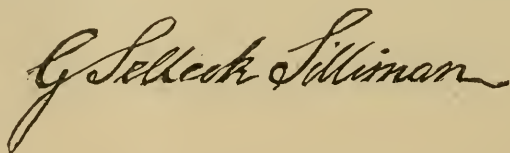
*Brigadier-General, Connecticut Militia.*

General Silliman was father and grandfather, respectively, of Profs. Benjamin Silliman, Senior and Junior, who were so long associated with the College. His own father was Judge Ebenezer Silliman, class of 1727, of Fairfield, Conn., where the General was born, May 7, 1732. In 1754 he married Martha, daughter of Deodate Davenport, of East Haven, and upon her death in 1774, married Mrs. Mary Noyes, widow of Rev. John Noyes, of New Haven.

Studying law, he became King's Attorney in 1771, and held that office when the Revolution opened. He was a member of the Town Committee of Correspondence, and at the April-May session of the Legislature, 1775, was appointed Colonel of the 4th regiment of militia. In March, 1776, troops being needed to go

on with the fortification and defence of New York, Col. Silliman was ordered to that point by the Governor and Council with a regiment specially organized for the purpose. It remained there during the spring. Hardly had he returned home, when he was reappointed, in May, Colonel of one of the six regiments raised to reinforce Washington for the New York campaign. From that date to the close of the year he was actively engaged, taking part in the movements on Long Island, the retreat to and from New York, the fortification of Washington Heights, and the battle of White Plains. His letters from the field are quoted and referred to in the text, pp. 45, 51. In the meantime, in June, 1776, he had been transferred from the 4th militia to the command of the first of the five regiments of Light Horse ordered for State service. Retaining this command during the contest, he was also promoted, in Dec., 1776, Brigadier-General of the 4th brigade of militia, and from that time to the close of the war was entrusted with the defence of the western coast of the State. Among other occasions, he rendered good service during Tryon's Danbury raid. In 1777 he took the field twice outside of the State; once in Dec., when Putnam made some demonstration with Meigs' regiment towards King's Bridge, and again in Sept.-Oct., during Burgoyne's campaign, when he led a large body of militia to Peekskill on the Hudson to reinforce Putnam. His reference to the surrender appears on p. 81. On p. 100 his capture by the Long Island Tories and subsequent exchange for Judge Jones are mentioned, and again, on p. 144, one of his letters, giving warning of the approach of a fleet along the Sound, is given in full. His activity and vigilance were conspicuous up to the last moment.

Upon the return of peace, Gen. Silliman resumed his profession of law, and was appointed State Attorney for Fairfield County. He died July 21, 1790, aged fifty-eight years. Several of his letters, as stated, are published in Vol. III., "L. I. Historical Soc. Memoirs," and extracts are quoted in Cothren's "Woodbury" (chapter on the Revolution). Judge Jones' "Loyalist History of the Revolution," and "Observations" on the same also contain references and letters.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. Silliman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the main text block.

## Roll of Honor.

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*Class of 1754.*

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JOSHUA PORTER,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Connecticut Militia.*

A native of Lebanon, Conn., where he was born, June 26, 1730. After graduation he taught school in North Carolina for a year, and in 1757 settled as a physician at Salisbury. There he lived and practised his profession for forty years. He also took part in public affairs, being elected town representative for more than forty sessions of the Assembly, and sitting as Judge of Probate for thirty-seven years. He served on several important committees during the war, and in March, 1776, received the responsible appointment of superintendent of the State iron works or furnace at Salisbury for casting cannon and making ammunition. He was one of eight or ten individuals who advanced money for the expedition to capture Ticonderoga, May, 1775, and also went there himself to report upon the situation. In 1774 he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the 17th regiment of militia, and on two or three occasions during the contest performed tours of duty outside of the State. He turned out at the Danbury raid, April, 1777, and again in the Burgoyne campaign. In his journal, printed in the Genealogy of his family, he says: "I commanded a regiment at Peekskill, six weeks at y<sup>e</sup> town of Danbury, being burnt, and likewise commanded a regiment at the capture of Gen. Burgoyne and army, and was in y<sup>e</sup> battles in y<sup>e</sup> year 1777." At Saratoga he was evidently with one of the two Connecticut regiments, made up of details from various militia regiments, and assigned to Gen. Poor's brigade. They were known as Cook's and Latimer's, and behaved remarkably well, especially in the hot engagement of Freeman's Farm, Sept. 19th. Col. Porter died at Salisbury, April 2, 1825, aged ninety-five.



ELISHA SILL,

*Surgeon, Connecticut Troops.*

Physician at Goshen, Conn. Born at Lyme, April 6, 1730. He is mentioned in the Sill and Hyde Genealogies as having

been surgeon of Wolcott's brigade or volunteer body, which reinforced Gates a short time before Burgoyne's surrender. He was one of a committee of doctors appointed by the Legislature in Oct., 1776, "to examine all persons in this State that were offered to serve as surgeons or surgeon's mates in the Continental army or navy." He died at Goshen in 1808.

*Class of 1755.*

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DAVID SANFORD,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts.*

Pastor at Medway, Mass.; born December 11, 1739. In Sprague's "Annals" he is mentioned as having served for a short time as Chaplain, "an office for which his natural strength of character and fine portly bearing, to say nothing of his ardent patriotism, admirably qualified him." He died April 7, 1810.<sup>1</sup>

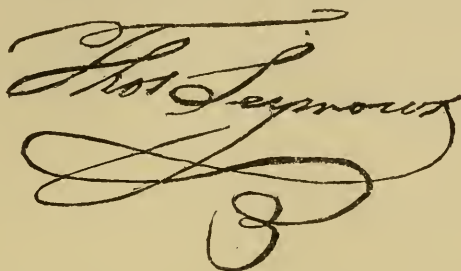
THOMAS SEYMOUR,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Connecticut Horse.*

Member of the well-known Hartford family of Seymours, and prominent in public affairs; born March 13, 1735. His father was Thomas Seymour, of the class of 1724. Col. Seymour's duties during the war were almost entirely of a civil nature as a representative and member of the Committee on the Pay Table. Part of the time he was one of the State Committee of Safety. In June, 1776, the Assembly appointed him Lieut.-Colonel of the first State Regiment of Light Horse (Col. Silliman's), and early in July he was ordered to New York to reinforce Washington until Wadsworth's new regiments reported. He went down with about five hundred men, assembled hastily, and was well received; but a dispute arose as to whether horsemen could be called upon to do infantry guard duty, as Washington wished, and the command was dismissed and returned home. Reflections being cast upon the conduct and patriotism of his men, Col. Seymour, on reaching Hartford, wrote a full explanation to Gov. Trumbull, which ap-

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Thomas Brooks, of Brookfield, Conn., and Rev. Ephraim Starkweather, of Pawtucket, R. I., of this class, are incidentally mentioned as having been chaplains. The authority does not appear.

pears in *Force's Archives*, Vol. I., Fifth Series, p. 513. The Colonel was elected first Mayor of Hartford after its incorporation as a city. Two of his sons, Thomas and William, graduates, were in the service. His death occurred July 30, 1829.

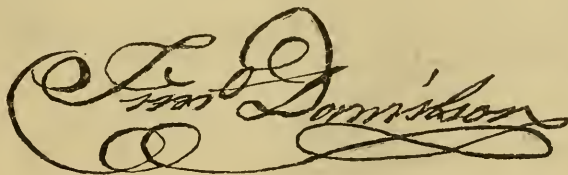
A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jos. Seymour". The signature features long, sweeping horizontal strokes and a decorative flourish at the end.

*Class of 1756.*

TIMOTHY DANIELSON,

*Brigadier-General, Massachusetts Militia.*

Resident of the town of Brimfield, Mass., where he was born in 1733. A man of considerable distinction in Hampshire County socially and politically. Personally he is described in Holland's *Western Massachusetts* as "a Herculean giant." He was a delegate in the Provincial Congress in the stirring years of 1774-75. During and after the war he was representative and State Senator. In May, 1775, he was commissioned Colonel of the Hampshire Militia regiment, and served with it at the siege of Boston. Jan. 30, 1776, he was appointed Brigadier-General for his county, and retained that rank through the war. He also became Chief-Justice of his County Court. His death occurred at Brimfield Sept. 16, 1791.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Timothy Danielson". The signature is highly stylized with many loops and flourishes, particularly in the first and last letters.



JOHN STORRS,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Mr. Storrs had been pastor at Southold, L. I., before the war, but his church broke up in consequence of hostilities, and he returned to Mansfield, Conn., his native place. During this interval he served as Chaplain of Col. Fisher Gay's regiment in Wadsworth's Brigade in the campaign of 1776 around New York. He is reported as being on "furlough" in October. He died in 1799.

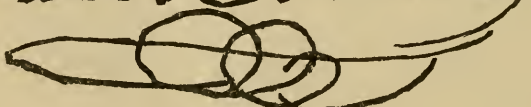
*Class of 1757.*

JABEZ BOWEN,

*Deputy-Governor, Rhode Island.  
Colonel, State Militia.*

Gov. Bowen is identified with Providence, R. I. He was a leading member of the State Assembly, and appears on important committees during the war. On May 6, 1778, he was elected Deputy-Governor of Rhode Island, and on Feb. 26, 1781, was appointed Chief-Justice. At the May session of the Assembly, 1776, he was appointed Colonel of the first militia regiment of Providence County, and served actively with it, being in camp at Pawtuxet in February 1777, when the enemy's vessels were threatening the coast; and again, later in the year, he writes from Providence, Oct. 3, 1777: "Major General Spencer having this morning removed his Quarters to Howland's Ferry, the command at this post devolves on me" (Trumbull Papers, Boston). He appears to have been active also in providing for the wants of the French troops after they arrived at Newport in 1780. Gov. Bowen was born June 13, 1739, and died about May 7, 1815.

*Jabez Bowen, Col. Comd.*





## *Roll of Honor.*

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OLIVER NOBLE,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts.*

Pastor at Newberry, Mass. He served as Chaplain of Col. Little's Mass. regiment at the siege of Boston in 1775, and after Jan. 1, 1776, appears as Chaplain both for Little's and Hitchcock's R. I. Regiment, which was in the same brigade. He may have accompanied these regiments to New York in the spring of 1776. He died in 1792.

NATHANIEL WEBB,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Of Windham, Conn., where he was born Aug. 5, 1737. He first appears in the service with the organization of the Continental Line in 1777. He was commissioned, Jan. 1, Captain in Col. Durkee's Fourth Connecticut, which in the spring went into camp at Peekskill. The regiment joined Washington's army in Pennsylvania in September, and fought at the battle of Germantown. It wintered at Valley Forge, and on June 29, 1778, was closely engaged in Varnum's brigade at Monmouth. Captain Webb, no doubt, was with his regiment in all these movements. In the summer of 1779 he was assigned to Wayne's Light Infantry Corps after the capture of Stony Point. From this time he remained generally in the Highlands until Jan. 1, 1781, when, upon the consolidation of regiments he retired from the army. In October, 1782, he wrote to Gov. Trumbull offering his services as Captain of a company to be stationed at New London, but nothing came of this. He died Jan. 25, 1814.

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Nathaniel Webb. The signature is written in dark ink and features elaborate flourishes, including a large loop at the beginning and a series of overlapping loops at the end. The name "Nathl Webb" is clearly legible within the script.

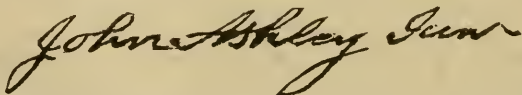
*Class of 1758.*

JOHN ASHLEY, JR.,

*Colonel, Massachusetts Militia.*

Son of Judge John Ashley, class of 1730, who was one of the early settlers and lawyers of Sheffield, Mass. The Judge was himself identified with the early patriotic movement, having presided at the county convention in 1774, referred to on page 4. Before the war he was Colonel of the South Berkshire regiment, with his son as Major.

The subject of this sketch was born about the year 1736. He was commissioned Colonel of the First Berkshire Militia Regiment April 4, 1777 (Mass. State Archives), evidently succeeding his classmate, Col. Mark Hopkins, who died in October, 1776. He marched his regiment to the Hudson in July, after the evacuation of Ticonderoga, and appears, from certain references, to have been at Bennington and with the Massachusetts forces in the Burgoyne campaign. He would naturally turn out at that crisis. It is probable, also, that he served on other occasions in that quarter. After the war Col. Ashley took a prominent part in the suppression of Shay's rebellion. He had a smart skirmish with a party in Sheffield, on Feb. 27, 1787, and scattered them. Gen. Lincoln, learning of his movements, wrote him: "Your successes must be important, as they will teach these deluded wretches that they cannot march unchecked by the good citizens, or spread depredations among them with impunity."<sup>1</sup> In 1788 he was made Brigadier of the militia, and in 1789 succeeded Gen. Paterson, class of 1762, as Major-General of the Ninth Division. At various intervals from 1782 to his death, he was a member of the Legislature. He died suddenly on the morning of Nov. 5, 1799, in the sixty-third year of his age, his father surviving him until 1802.



<sup>1</sup> The *Massachusetts Centinel* for March 27, 1787, says: "Young Burghurdt, a student of Yale College [class of 1787], who was wounded when pursuing the insurgents in their retreat after the action with Col. Ashley at Sheffield, is likely to recover, though his wound was supposed to be dangerous."

Elisha Lee, class of 1777, resident of Great Barrington, was Aid-de-camp on Gen. Ashley's staff in 1790.

## *Roll of Honor.*

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BENJAMIN BOARDMAN,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Middle Haddam, Conn., until 1783, and then at Hartford. He was born at Sandisfield, Mass., in 1732. He is mentioned as Chaplain of Connecticut troops for a time at the Boston siege in 1775. In the following year he became Chaplain of Col. Durkee's Connecticut regiment in Washington's army, and was with it at its station at Paulus Hook, now Jersey City, in Sept. when the enemy took New York. A letter from his pen describing the events of the time appears in *Force's Archives*. He died at Hartford, Feb. 8, 1802.<sup>1</sup>

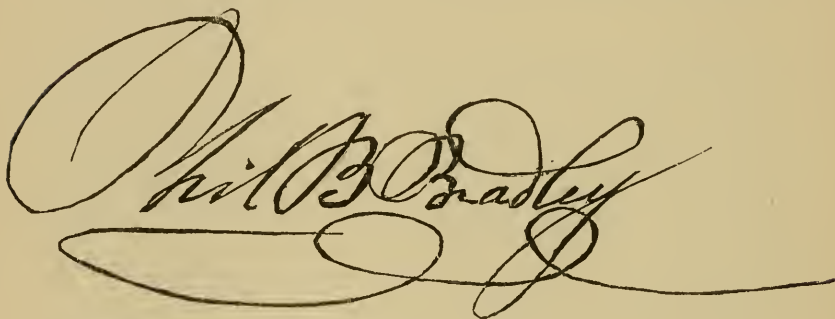
PHILIP BURR BRADLEY,

*Colonel, Continental Army.*

Col. Bradley was born in Greenfield Parish, Fairfield, Conn., March, 26, 1738, but became a resident of Ridgefield. He was a merchant, and influential both socially and politically. On June 20, 1776, he received a commission as Colonel of one of the State regiments comprising Wadsworth's brigade in Washington's army at New York, and served in that vicinity to the close of the year. His own regiment was posted most of the time at Bergen Heights, New Jersey, and afterwards at Forts Lee and Washington. At the fall of the latter place in November, the greater part of his command was captured by the enemy. The Colonel was on the sick list and had been taken home on a litter only a few days before. Upon the formation of the new army, Bradley was Commissioned Colonel of the Fifth Connecticut Continental Line, Jan. 1, 1777, and served with it in the field for four years. When the British returned through Ridgefield from the Danbury raid in April, 1777, they ransacked the Colonel's house, destroying furniture and valuables. The Colonel himself, who was at home recruiting his regiment, turned out and engaged the enemy in the skirmish at that place; he also distributed one hundred and thirty gallons of rum from his own stores to the fatigued militia, for which losses the Assembly afterwards afforded him relief. Some

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Benjamin Wildman, of this class, pastor at Southbury, Conn., is referred to in the history of Woodbury as having been Chaplain for a short time.

of the wounded were cared for in his house. In the fall of 1777, Bradley's regiment joined Washington in Pennsylvania and fought at Germantown where it sustained some loss; then wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78. In June, 1778, it was at Monmouth, and remained thereafter with the main army on the Hudson in New Jersey and on the Connecticut border. The Colonel frequently presided at Courts-Martial and occasionally commanded his brigade. He retired from the service on the reduction of the regiments, Jan. 1, 1781. He was a member of the Cincinnati Soc., Judge of Fairfield County Court after the war, and in Sept., 1789, was appointed first U. S. Marshal of that District. As a member of the Assembly he served seven years before the war and eleven after. He died at Ridgefield, Jan. 4, 1821.



ISRAEL DICKINSON,

*Captain, Massachusetts Volunteers.*

Of Pittsfield, Mass. He is supposed to have been born at Hatfield in 1735. This reference is made to him in Smith's "History of Pittsfield," Vol. I., p. 180: "In college he was the classmate and chum of Israel Stoddard; and both were the friends of Woodbridge Little, who was two classes below them. This early college intimacy led to the settlement of the chums, and soon after, of Little, upon three adjoining estates in a pleasant section of Pittsfield. And there the ante-revolutionary troubles found them in the enjoyment of cultivated and harmonious intercourse, interchanging reminiscences of college life, and, as the books preserved by their descendants prove, indulging and cherishing their taste for intellectual pleasures. Nothing remains to show

when this delightful union was interrupted by the political differences which estranged the friends, if they were estranged ; but immediately after the Lexington fight, when Stoddard and Little were taking refuge in New York from the rage of the people, we find Israel Dickinson prominent in the military operations of the patriots." Stoddard and Little, however, appear to have accepted the Revolution later, as their names are on the list of volunteers marching from Pittsfield to Bennington in 1777.

Captain Dickinson joined the party that captured Ticonderoga in May, 1775, and distinguished himself there. See p. 28. He appears to have been active also in 1777, and marched to the Bennington field at the first alarm. He may have been at Saratoga, but we have no further mention of him after August beyond the fact of his death, which the town records show to have occurred Nov. 18, 1777, from bilious fever.

*Israel Dickinson*

MARK HOPKINS,

*Colonel, Massachusetts Troops.*

Colonel Hopkins was one of three brothers who graduated at the college, and who became men of more or less note in their day. Their father was Timothy Hopkins, of Waterbury, Conn. The eldest son, Samuel, of the class of 1741, was afterwards the distinguished theologian of Newport, R. I. Daniel, of the class of 1758, settled as a preacher at Salem, Mass.<sup>1</sup> Mark, of the same class, became a leading lawyer at Great Barrington, Mass. He was born at Waterbury, Sept. 13, 1739.

In common with other graduates in Berkshire County, Hop-

<sup>1</sup> In Sprague's "Annals" the following facts appear respecting Rev. Dr. Daniel Hopkins : " In 1775, when the Revolutionary war broke out and the situation of the country required their wisest counsels and best measures, Mr. Hopkins was elected a member of the Provincial Congress [of Mass.] ; and in that responsible position he displayed great wisdom and vigor of mind as well as an enlightened and ardent patriotism. In 1778 he was elected a member of the Council of the Conventional Government, and in both offices he served his country with great dignity, fidelity, and efficiency."



kins took an active part in Revolutionary affairs. When the County Convention met in July, 1774, he was placed upon the committee to draw up resolutions expressing its views on the crisis. In April, 1775, the Provincial Congress at Watertown appointed Mr. Hopkins a member of the Committee of Correspondence for Berkshire, and in this capacity he was able to be of much service, watching the disaffected element in that section of the State, and furthering the enlistment and supply of troops. On Jan. 30, 1776, the Congress elected him Colonel of the First Regiment of Berkshire County militia to be ready for any emergency, and a small part of it was sent to the Hudson Highlands for a time. In the summer of this year Massachusetts reinforced Washington's army at New York with a brigade of three regiments under General John Fellows, of Berkshire, with whom Colonel Hopkins was doubtless well acquainted. The Colonel seems to have accompanied him on this occasion as an aid or volunteer, as his regiment was not in the brigade. However this may be, he was in New York with Gen. Fellows, and a few days after the arrival of the command, Washington appointed him Aug. 7, 1776, its Brigade-Major; and as such he served through the trying events in and around the city. Fellows' troops were not engaged on the Long Island side, but upon the retreat from New York, Sept. 15th, they attempted with other forces, to repel the enemy near Kip's Bay only to be put to rout. They were militiamen without much discipline. When the brigade marched with the main army to White Plains, Colonel Hopkins was still with it, but there he fell seriously ill. The fatigue and excitement of recent movements threw him into a fever from which he did not recover. He died Oct. 26, 1776, two days before the Battle of White Plains (not on the 27th as stated in the text), a soldier having carried him in his arms to a place of safety in anticipation of an engagement.

Colonel Hopkins was the grandfather of Ex-President Mark Hopkins of Williams College.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Hopkins". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right from the end of the name.



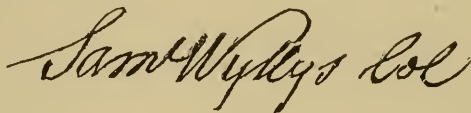
SAMUEL WYLLYS,

*Colonel, Continental Army.*

The eldest of the three Wyllys brothers, of Hartford, who graduated at Yale, and all of whom served in the Revolution. They were the sons of George Wyllys, of the class of 1729, who was Secretary of the Colony and State of Connecticut for sixty-two years, succeeding his father Hezekiah Wyllys in that office, and being in turn succeeded by his son, the above Colonel Samuel. The three held the position from 1712 until 1809, a period of ninety-seven years. This old colonial family which long enjoyed a high social position is now extinct.

Colonel Wyllys was born about Jan. 1 (bapt. Jan. 7), 1738. After graduation he spent a few years in England. Returning, he was appointed, in 1771, the first Captain of the First or Hartford Company of Governor's Foot Guards, which still retains its organization. May 1, 1775, he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second or Gen. Spencer's regiment of State Troops, and took part at the siege of Boston until its evacuation by the enemy. While in that camp, July 1, 1775, he was promoted Colonel of his regiment. Before leaving Hartford he joined with other individuals in planning and providing the expenses of the expedition which surprised Ticonderoga in May. On Jan. 1, 1776, he was recommissioned Colonel of his regiment, which re-enlisted as the 22d Foot to serve for one year on the Continental basis. With this command he took part in the New York campaign, being actively engaged at the battle of Long Island. He was in charge of the upper Flatbush pass, near the eastern line of Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and was forced to retreat in haste with all the outguards, when they found themselves outflanked by way of the Jamaica pass. He narrowly escaped capture. His regiment, in Parson's Brigade, was also caught in the retreat from New York, Sept. 15th. After the battle of White Plains, he was posted on the Hudson. On Jan. 1, 1777, Wyllys was commissioned Colonel of the new Third Connecticut Continental Line, and served with it four years, during which period he was almost continuously on duty in the Hudson Highlands or along the Connecticut border. In the summer and fall of 1777, his regiment formed part of Putnam's force which attempted to check Clinton's advance up the river. Humphreys refers to him in this

connection in his "Life of Putnam." Early in 1778 his regiment, with other troops, began the permanent fortifications at West Point. Fort "Wylls" at that point was doubtless named after the Colonel. In the winter of 1778-79, the regiment quartered with Putnam's force at Redding, Conn., and in the following summer it marched with the Connecticut division towards the coast in that State to check Tryon. Wylls was then in command of his brigade—Parsons'. In 1780 it was in camp with Washington's army on the Hudson, and took part in the manœuvres of that year. Finally, on Jan. 1, 1781, the Colonel retired from the service, with many other officers, in consequence of regimental consolidations. After the war he became Secretary of State and Brigadier-General of Militia. He died June 1, 1823, his old Governor's Foot Guards being the escort at the funeral. Member Cincinnati Society.



*Class of 1759.*

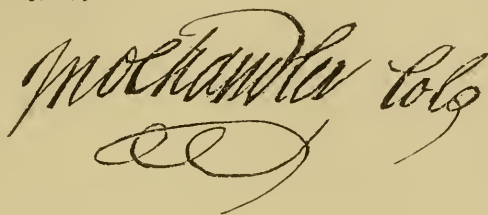
JOHN CHANDLER,

*Colonel, Continental Army.*

Colonel Chandler was a native of Pomfret, Conn., where he was born Jan. 4, 1736. He is said to have been one of eight young men from that town who graduated in his class. Subsequently he removed to Newtown, Conn., where he practised medicine and occasionally preached.

Chandler was first appointed Major of Silliman's Conn. regiment, in March, 1776, ordered to fortify New York. June 20th, following, he was Lieut.-Colonel under Silliman, and served through the New York campaign, on Long Island, at the retreat from the city, and battle of White Plains. Jan. 1, 1777, he was commissioned Colonel of the new Eighth Conn. Continental Line, and fought at Germantown. He was in camp at Valley Forge, but on March 5, 1778, resigned his colonelcy on account of ill health. A pension was allowed him for "diseases contracted from severities in the service." His Lieut.-Colonel, Giles Russell, class of 1751,

succeeded him. In 1780 the State Council of Safety authorized Chandler to superintend the recruiting of the Connecticut Line, and he appears in the spring of that year at the Morristown huts urging reënlistments and offering new bounties. After the war he became Brigadier of Militia, Judge of Fairfield County Court, and was also a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1788. Later in life he removed to Peacham, Vt., where he died March 15, 1796.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ebenezer Craft". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first name "Ebenezer" is written in a large, flowing script, and the last name "Craft" is written in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The signature is followed by a decorative flourish consisting of two loops.

EBENEZER CRAFT,

*Deputy-Commissary, Massachusetts Troops.*

Colonel Craft was born at Pomfret, Conn., Sept. 23, 1740, his father having removed to that place from Newton, Mass. Some years before the war he settled at Sturbridge, Mass., and in 1775 was captain, it is said, of a militia company of troopers at the Boston siege; but there is no record of cavalry at that camp. He served in another capacity. On July 1, 1775, upon the recommendation of Col. Learned, he was appointed by the Provincial Congress, Deputy Commissary in "the Massachusetts army," and seems to have retained the office through the year. Whether he served again during the war does not appear, but when Shay's rebellion broke out, 1786-7, he took an active part in its suppression, as Colonel of the Worcester County regiment of horse.

In 1791 Col. Craft removed to Vermont and founded the town of Craftsbury, where he died, May 24, 1810. He was an active and liberal man, being remembered, for instance, at Leicester, Mass., as the founder of the town academy where his portrait is preserved. In 1785-6 he was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature.

FISHER GAY,

*Colonel, Connecticut State Troops.*

Colonel Gay's native place was Litchfield, Conn., where he was born, Oct. 9, 1733, but after graduation he taught school at Farm-

ington and permanently settled there. Becoming a merchant, he acquired property and influence, and interested himself in public affairs. In 1774 he was placed on the Town Committees of Correspondence, Vigilance and Supplies, and was also elected Member of the Assembly for the March session in 1775 (Force). At that time he was Lieut.-Colonel of Militia.

Upon the Lexington alarm, Col. Gay closed his store and marched to Boston at the head of about a hundred volunteers, but did not then remain long in the field. Later, in Jan., 1776, Washington needing troops at Boston, while the main force was reorganizing, Gov. Trumbull sent him, among others, a regiment under Col. Erastus Wolcott, of Windsor, of which Fisher Gay was Lieut.-Colonel, with commission dated Jan. 23, 1776. An extract from the brief journal he kept, describing his experiences, is given on pp. 34-5. With the evacuation of Boston, Gay's regiment returned to Connecticut. Early in the following summer, however, the Colonel again took the field, having been commissioned June 10, 1776, Colonel of one of the new State regiments composing Wadsworth's Brigade, raised for service at New York. The brigade was posted in the city along the East River front until August, when a portion of it was moved across to the Brooklyn lines, where Gen. Greene was in command. By the General's orders of Aug. 4th, Col. Gay's regiment was directed to make Fort Sterling, on Brooklyn Heights, and the fort on Cobble Hill, its alarm posts—four companies at each. On the 25th it was attached to General Parsons' Brigade, which had been doing duty on the picket line, and remained on that side until the retreat from Long Island. The Colonel himself, however, did not survive these movements. Taken ill, he died in camp on or before Aug. 27th, the day of the battle. It seems to be uncertain whether he died or was buried on that day. "His zeal and self-sacrifice," says President Porter, in his Farmington Historical Discourse, 1872, "were conspicuous. On his sword, which is still preserved, are engraved the words, 'Freedom or Death.'"

*Fisher Gay*

JESSE LEAVENWORTH,

*Captain, Connecticut.*

Three of the seven sons of Rev. Mark Leavenworth, of Waterbury, Conn., class of 1737, graduated at the college and served at different periods of the war. They were Jesse, 1759, Mark, 1771, and Nathan, 1778. The father, a well-known pastor in the State, was chaplain for about eight months in the French and Indian war, and afterwards heartily encouraged the Revolutionary movement.

Jesse, the eldest son, born at Waterbury, Nov. 22, 1741, was settled in business at New Haven when the war broke out. He had been appointed, March 16, 1775, Lieutenant of the Second or New Haven Company, of Governor's Foot Guards, under Captain Benedict Arnold, and, upon the Lexington alarm, marched with it to Boston. Gen. Wooster's State regiment was organized soon after, and Leavenworth received a First Lieutenancy in it with commission dating May 1, 1775. During the summer this command was stationed at New York and in part on Long Island (see notice of Gen. Wooster), and then moved into the northern department under Schuyler and Montgomery. From March to May, 1777, Leavenworth appears on special duty at Ticonderoga, and was one of the witnesses against Gen. St. Clair, when tried for hastily abandoning that post. He was connected, as Captain, with the Quarter Master's department there, and his expenses charged "to the Continent, as the service had been done by order of the President of Congress to the Governor" of Connecticut. Afterwards he purchased lands in Vermont, and for a time resided in Cabot township. His death occurred Dec. 12 (?), 1824, at Sackett's Harbor, N. Y.


EXPERIENCE STORRS,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Connecticut Militia.*

Of Mansfield, Conn., where he was born, Sept. 18, 1734. In 1775 he was a member of the Assembly as well as Lieut.-Col. of the 5th militia regiment. Upon the Lexington alarm he collected five companies and marched from Windham Green, April 22d, as far as Providence. From that point he returned to attend the Assembly, first securing powder for Mansfield and fitting out



a wagon-load of provisions for his men at Boston. In his journal referred to in the text he makes many interesting entries, viz.: "April 27—Bad weather for Tories in the House; yet we have some." In the May session he was elected Lieut.-Col. of Putnam's regiment, raised with others for the crisis, and on the 27th he started for camp with one company. A part of his regiment was at Bunker Hill under Putnam, and with the other part he was ordered to throw up a work during the night after the battle, to prevent the enemy's following up their success by way of Charlestown Neck. An extract from his journal appears on p. 20. After Jan. 1, 1776, Col. Storrs does not appear to have been on service out of the State. His regiment was with Washington's army a short time in the fall of the year under command of its Major. He died July 22, 1801. A sentence in his gravestone inscription reads: "He was portly in figure, and friendly in disposition; an advocate of his country's rights, a lover of order, a respectable professor of the Christian Religion."



DYAR THROOP,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Connecticut Militia.*

Of East Haddam, where he was a practising "barrister at law." He was born at Bozrah, Conn., Sept. 17, 1738. During the first part of the war he appears as Major and Lieut.-Colonel of militia, the latter appointment being conferred in June, 1776. He doubtless turned out with his regiment on alarms, which came frequently. In Feb., 1777, he commanded detachments from five regiments ordered to New London on one of the alarms. After the war he became Brigadier-General of militia. He died June 4, 1789.

BENJAMIN TRUMBULL, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Best known as the author of the first extended history of Connecticut, 1630-1764. He was pastor at North Haven. In 1775



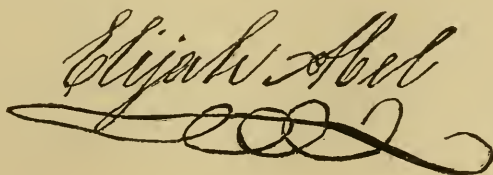
he served as Chaplain of Gen. Wooster's regiment in the Northern Department, and in the campaign of 1776 around New York, served with Col. William Douglas' regiment in Wadsworth's brigade. He sometimes engaged in battle himself, as he had opportunity to do on Long Island and again at White Plains. It is said that at the latter place he fired with the troops from behind walls. Tallmadge states, in his "Memoirs," that the Chaplain jumped up behind him on his horse as he was about to wade the Bronx River while the enemy were close after them. The shock threw both into the stream and they were nearly captured. Prof. Silliman adds in Sprague's "Annals," that the Chaplain, like Dr. Daggett, turned out on horseback at the New Haven raid, July, 1779, and fired at the enemy "from the saddle." Dr. Trumbull was born Dec. 19, 1735; died Feb. 2, 1820.

*Class of 1760.*

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ELIJAH ABEL.*Captain, Connecticut Troops.*

Born at Norwich, Conn., Sept. 18, 1738; lived at Fairfield. He was commissioned June 10, 1776, Captain in Col. Bradley's State regiment, which served through the New York campaign, but was not among the officers captured with the regiment at Fort Washington. This appears to have been the extent of his service outside of the State. In July, 1779, his house at Fairfield was burned when the enemy fired the town. At that time he was Major in the militia and engaged in recruiting men for the Connecticut Line, under Trumbull's directions. He held local offices during and after the war, and became Brigadier-General of the militia. His death occurred at Bozrah, June 3, 1809.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elijah Abel". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, flowing underline that extends to the right and then loops back under the main text.

ANDREW ADAMS,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Connecticut Militia.*

This was Hon. Andrew Adams, of Litchfield, Conn., referred to sometimes as a Revolutionary officer. He was Major of militia at the outbreak of the war, and later Lieut.-Colonel. References indicate that he probably served for a short time under Wooster along the Westchester Co. border, but otherwise his services were mainly of a civil nature. He ranked high as a patriotic citizen and jurist. Before the war he had been King's Attorney in Litchfield. He served on important committees in the Assembly after the war broke out, and was thrice a delegate to Congress; also one of the Governor's assistants. Subsequently he became Judge of the Supreme Court and Chief-Justice. A biographical notice of him, the earliest we have, appears in Morris' Statistical Account of Litchfield. He died Nov. 26, 1797, at the age of sixty-one.

JARED POTTER,

*Surgeon, Connecticut Troops.*

Physician at Wallingford, Conn.; born at East Haven, Sept. 25, 1742. He served as Surgeon of Gen. Wooster's regiment in 1775, and was present at the capture of St. Johns and Montreal. In the campaign of 1776 he was attached to Col. Wm. Douglas' regiment, which took part in the battle of Long Island, the retreat from New York, and battle of White Plains. He was also with a militia regiment, July 5, 1779, when Tryon invaded New Haven. His death occurred July 30, 1810. There is a full notice of Dr. Potter in the N. H. Hist. Soc. Papers, Vol. ii., from the pen of Dr. Bronson, who says of him: "In the first decade of the present century, Dr. Potter was probably the most celebrated and popular physician in the State."<sup>1</sup>

AMMI RUHAMAH ROBBINS,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Norfolk, Conn.; born at Branford, Sept., 1740. He was Chaplain of Col. Charles Burrall's Conn. regiment, which served in the Northern Department and Canada in the spring of

<sup>1</sup> Woodbridge Little, of this class, is mentioned in the sketch of Israel Dickinson, class of 1758.

1776, and which he joined March 20th. Mr. Robbins left a journal of his camp life, which has been published. The hardships of the winter and ravages of the small-pox made his experience a hard one, which affected his health. He was with our force when it evacuated Canada. In his journal he mentions Chaplains Avery and Ripley, and speaks of the great suffering among the soldiers. His death occurred in 1813.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1761.*

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STEPHEN BABCOCK,

*Major, Rhode Island Militia.*

Of South Kingston, R. I. In May, 1778, Captain of militia, and in May, 1779, Major of Col. Dyer's second militia regiment, of Kings County. He is said to have been one of the Captains in Col. Wm. Barton's Light Infantry battalion, raised in the summer of 1779, at request of Gen. Gates, for special service in Rhode Island. Major Babcock died Feb. 23, 1789, aged about forty-nine.

NATHAN BROWNSON,

*Hospital Surgeon, Continental Army.*

Doctor, afterwards Governor, Brownson, like Lyman Hall, of the class of 1747, went South after graduation, and took up his residence in Liberty Co., Georgia. Entering public life he became, in 1781, Governor of the State. Before that he had been a member of the Provincial and Continental Congress. In 1789-91 he was President of the Georgia Senate. For a time, during the Revolution, he served in the medical department of the South, Congress having appointed him "Deputy-Purveyor of the Hospital" on March 28, 1781, and again on June 6, 1782. He died in Nov., 1796.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Dr. Levi Hart, of this class, pastor at Griswold, Conn., visited the Boston camps in 1775, and preached to the troops there, but not regularly as Chaplain.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Jesse Goodell of Pomfret, Conn., and Rev. William Southmayd, of this class, native of Waterbury, Conn., are mentioned as chaplains. The latter is said to have died "near Lake Champlain, in 1777."

WILLIAM COIT,

*Captain, Connecticut Troops.  
Captain of Privateers.*

Of New London, Conn., where he was born Nov. 26, 1742. The Coit *Genealogy* describes him as a hearty patriot, "blunt and jovial, eccentric, very large in frame, fierce and military in his bearing, and noted for wearing a scarlet coat." He was a merchant and sea-captain. In May, 1775, he was appointed Captain in Col. Parsons' Conn. regiment, and distinguished himself, with his company of "independent marines," at the battle of Bunker Hill (p. 17). In the fall of the year, acting under Washington's directions, he took command of the privateer *Harrison* at Plymouth, and on Nov. 6th brought in two prizes. He sailed again on the 23d, but a week later was driven into Barnstable by British men-of-war. Returning to camp at the close of the year, he retired from land service. In the Webb "Reminiscences" there is a humorous, sailor-like letter from his pen describing the *Harrison*. "While I can keep the sea and light only on unarmed vessels," he writes, "she will do very well. But if obliged to fire both guns of a side at a time, it would split her open from her gunwale to her keelson." Another reference appears on p. 32. On July 11, 1776, Captain Coit was appointed, by Gov. Trumbull and Council, to the command of the "colony ship-of-war," *Oliver Cromwell*, building at Saybrook. Some difficulties arose, however, and he was discharged from the command, April 14, 1777. He is not mentioned again until Arnold's attack on New London in 1781, when he was taken prisoner. The date of his exchange does not appear. He is supposed to have died while on a visit to the South. The *Hartford Courant* for May 17, 1802, notices the death of a William Coit on Feb. 16, of that year, at Burlington, Vt.

DANIEL HITCHCOCK,

*Colonel, Continental Army.*

Of Colonel Hitchcock we know too little. His career was brief, but long enough to mark him as a man of uncommon worth—a type of the nobler characters of that day. His ancestry is traced to Luke and Elizabeth (Gibbons) Hitchcock, who settled

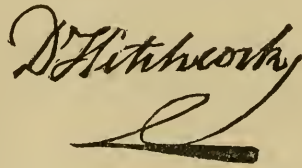
at Wethersfield, Conn., in 1644, and whose grandsons, Ebenezer and Peletiah, subsequently settled at Springfield, Mass. Peletiah was the father of Rev. Dr. Enos Hitchcock, graduate of Harvard, 1767, and afterwards a well-known chaplain in the Revolution. Ebenezer and Mary (Sheldon) Hitchcock were the parents of Daniel, the subject of this sketch. He (Daniel) was born at Springfield, Feb. 15, 1739, the thirteenth child in the family. Among his brothers, and twenty-one years his senior, was the Rev. Dr. Gad Hitchcock, graduate of Harvard, 1743.

Upon graduation, Daniel Hitchcock studied law at Northampton, and in 1771-72 appears on the roll of the thirty or more attorneys practising in the Supreme Court of Mass. Soon after, for reasons not stated, he removed to Providence, R. I., where, at the opening of the Revolution, he was well established in his profession and making his mark. He first appears in a public capacity in Dec., 1774, when the R. I. Assembly appointed him on a commission to revive the military laws of the colony. On April 22, 1775, he was elected Lieut.-Colonel of the Providence Train of Artillery, and in May following was made Colonel of the Second or Providence regiment in the R. I. "Army of Observation," as it was called, which went to Boston under Gen. Greene and served through the siege. Dr. Stiles speaks of meeting him in camp there (p. 24). In the campaign of 1776 at New York, Hitchcock was stationed on the Long Island side, and his regiment helped to build the works. What part he took there before and during the battle appears on pp. 40, 47. His regiment was known as the Eleventh Foot, on the Continental Establishment for 1776. It accompanied the army in all its movements and retreats down through the battles of Trenton and Princeton, where, as stated in the text, it performed capital service. Hitchcock was senior officer in the brigade at the time, Greene being Division Commander, and he led it with signal success, especially at Princeton, as described on p. 60. The army encamped at Morristown, where, overcome by the fatigue and exertions of the recent movements, the brave Colonel died, Jan. 13, 1777. He was buried with military honors on the following day, the Delaware and Philadelphia Infantry Companies, under the command of Captain Thomas Rodney, being detailed as the funeral escort. In his *MSS.* journal the Captain says, Jan. 14th: "This day the Infan-



try was ordered to bury Gen. Hitchcock with the honors of war, and as he was a Continental officer I took the command myself." He speaks of the bier being followed by "the mourners, then the officers, and then the battalion in platoons of 10 in open order." Three volleys were fired over the grave.

The Colonel left a brief will, which was witnessed on Jan. 10, 1777, at Morristown, the witnesses stating that "through excessive pain and weakness" the testator was unable to sign the instrument. The will reads: "I Give one Half of my Estate to the Benevolent Congregational Society in Providence—The Remainder to be equally divided among my Bretheren." This was sworn to before Gov. Livingston, Jan. 15th, at Morristown, and on the 19th March, 1777, recorded at Providence. Among the items of the estate was a gold watch presented to Col. Hitchcock by Gen. Greene, as a mark of the latter's friendship and respect, and which is now in the hands of one of the Colonel's collateral descendants. Before his death the Colonel had been appointed to the command of one of the two R. I. regiments of the new Continental Line. He died unmarried.



*Class of 1762.*

HEZEKIAH BISSELL,

*Captain, Connecticut Troops.*

Son of the Rev. Hezekiah Bissell, class of 1733, long pastor at Bloomfield, Conn. He was born April 24, 1743, and settled at Windham as a lawyer. Without doubt he was the officer of his name who was Captain in the 5th militia regiment which reinforced Washington's army in the fall of 1776—that regiment being from Windham County. There was also a State Commissary by his name from the same county. The Woodbridge family record states that he served in the Revolution. He died at Windsor, 1808.



## *Roll of Honor.*

229

JEDIDIAH CHAPMAN,

*Chaplain, New Jersey Troops.*

Pastor at "Newark Mountain," or Orange, New Jersey, during the Revolution. His parish was in an exposed section and the Tories threatened to capture him. During a part of the campaign of 1776, he served as Chaplain of Col. Martin's New Jersey regiment in Washington's army, and may have been with it in camp on the Long Island front. He was born at East Haddam, Ct., Sept. 27, 1741, and died in central New York, May, 22, 1813. His name appears by error as *Hezekiah* Chapman, on p. 38.

JOSIAH HART,

*Surgeon, Connecticut.*

Physician at New Britain, Conn. ; born April 28, 1742. He studied medicine with Dr. Potter of Wallingford, class of 1760, and July, 1775, was appointed Surgeon's-Mate of Col. Parsons' Connecticut regiment at the Boston siege. On Jan. 1, 1776, he appears as full Surgeon of the regiment, and probably served with it in the New York campaign through the year. There is no further record in his case. After the war he was known as a prominent physician both at home and at Marietta, Ohio, where he settled later in life. He died at Lowell, O., Aug., 1812.

WILLIAM NICHOLS,

*Paymaster, Continental Army.*

The graduate of this name was undoubtedly the lawyer and officer, William Nichols, resident of Hartford. He formed one of the small party that went from that city to contrive and assist in the capture of Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775. In 1776 he was Lieutenant and Paymaster in Col. Heman Swift's Conn. regiment in the Northern Department, and on Jan. 1, 1777, he was commissioned with the same rank in Swift's Seventh Regiment of the new Continental Line. The command fought at Germantown, wintered at Valley Forge, and was with the army at Monmouth. The rolls showed that he retired from the service in July, 1778. After that he seems to have practised

his profession at Hartford, where he died, Friday, Oct. 13, 1792, aged fifty-one. He was buried on the following day. Member Cincinnati Soc.

*Wm Nichols*

AMOS NORTHROP,

*Lieutenant and Commissary, Connecticut.*

Of New Milford, Conn., where he was born, Dec. 19, 1742. He was First Lieutenant in Col. Samuel Whiting's Conn. regiment, raised for service on the Westchester line during the winter of 1776-77. Later, according to family tradition, he acted as Commissary, and died of consumption hastened by exertions in the service—his death occurring March 19, 1779. His grave is at New Milford.

JOHN PATERSON,

*Brigadier-General, Continental Army.*

Few officers were more closely identified with the army than Gen. Paterson—his service being continuous and active for over eight years and a half. His native place was New Britain, Conn., then one of the societies of the town of Farmington, where he was born 1743-4. His father was major of provincial troops in 1762, at the siege of Havanna, and died there of yellow fever. About 1769 the general removed to Lenox, Mass., and practised law. He was sent as a delegate to the first Provincial Congress in 1774, and again to the second, which met at Cambridge, February 1, 1775. He was at the time colonel of militia, and his regiment was among the first at the front after the Lexington alarm. May 27, 1775, he was commissioned colonel in the Provincial service, and his regiment took post at redoubt No. 3, northeast of Cambridge. He served through the siege, and in 1776, on the evacuation of Boston, he was ordered to Canada, where, in May, we find him in command at Montreal. In the fall of the year he marched down, with others, to reinforce Washington, who was retreating through the Jerseys, and took part in

the battles of Trenton and Princeton. He was then appointed colonel of one of the new regiments of the Massachusetts Continental line, with Springfield as the place of rendezvous. On Feb. 21st, of that year, however, he was promoted by Congress Brigadier-General of the Continental Army, and as such returned to Ticonderoga, under St. Clair's command. That post abandoned he joined Gates' force with his Massachusetts brigade, and was present in the field all through Burgoyne's campaign. After the surrender he once more joined Washington, and wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78. There he superintended a portion of the defences, as stated on p. 84. At Monmouth, June 29, 1779, he appears in command of the three Massachusetts brigades on Washington's main line, but not closely engaged; then on the Hudson and at West Point, where he was post commander two winters. In Oct., 1780, after sitting on the court that tried André, Paterson wrote a long letter to Gen. Heath (Mass. archives) complaining that the country was not supporting the army properly, and suggesting the best methods of enlisting recruits for the war. As for himself, he declared that he was "ruined" in circumstances, and would be compelled to resign his commission in the following year. He remained, however, to render further good service. One of his letters of this period, 1780, appears on p. 121.

In 1781, '82, and '83, he was generally in the Highlands. He signs himself, in March of the latter year, commander of the left wing of the Newburg cantonment. On June 24, 1783, he received orders to march with the 1st, 2d, and 3d Massachusetts regiments to Philadelphia, where a mutiny of old soldiers broke out. There he presided over the court which tried and punished the offenders. Returning to the Hudson, he retired from the service in December, 1783.

After the war Gen. Paterson resided in Lenox until about 1789, when he moved to Lisle, Broome County, N. Y. Before that he had become Major-General of the 9th Division of Massachusetts Militia, and in 1787 assisted in the suppression of Shay's rebellion. In his new home he became influential, went to the N. Y. Legislature, and from 1803 to 1805 was a member of Congress. April 2, 1806, he was appointed Chief Justice of Broome County Court of Common Pleas, an office which he appears to have been

holding at the time of his death, July 19, 1808. Member Mass. Cincinnati Soc.

*John Paterson 138*

THOMAS SKINNER,

*Surgeon, Continental Army.*

Of Colchester, Conn., where he was born May 31, 1741. He was commissioned March 20, 1779, surgeon of the Eighth Conn. Continental Line, and continued in service after January, 1781, when he was surgeon of the Fifth. He probably remained through the war, and then returned to Colchester, where he died Aug. 7, 1796. Member Conn. Cincinnati Soc.

WHITMAN WELCH,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts.*

Pastor at Williamstown, Mass., from 1765 to 1776. He was a native of Milford, Conn. In the early part of 1776 he officiated as chaplain of one of the militia regiments of Western Massachusetts which were sent to reinforce our defeated army before Quebec. The small-pox prevailing in the camp, he contracted the disease, and died there in March, 1776.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1763.*

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EBENEZER BALDWIN,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Danbury, Conn.; born at Norwich, July 3, 1745. He had been tutor at Yale and was highly esteemed as an instructor and minister. Chancellor Kent, who fitted for college under him, speaking of his worth and public spirit, says, in his *Φ. B. K.* address, 1831 :

<sup>1</sup> Jabez Swift, of this class, is mentioned as having died "in camp near Boston, 1775." He may have been one of the early volunteers after the Lexington alarm. His native place was Kent, Conn., but he had settled as a lawyer at Salisbury.

“ Mr. Baldwin took an enlightened and active interest in the rise and early progress of the American Revolution. . . . In the impending and gloomy campaign of 1776 he was incessant in his efforts to cheer and animate his townsmen to join the militia, which were called out for the defence of New York. To give weight to his eloquent exhortations he added that of his heroic example. He went voluntarily as a chaplain to one of the militia regiments. His office was peaceful, but he nevertheless arrayed himself in military armor. I was present when he firmly and cheerfully bid adieu to his devoted parishioners and affectionate pupils.”

Mr. Baldwin volunteered to officiate as chaplain of Col. J. P. Cooke's militia regiment from Danbury, which served at New York for three or four months in 1776. He joined it in August, and was with the troops during some of the trying scenes of the campaign. His experience, however, was cut short by camp disease, which terminated fatally. Returning home, he died Oct. 1, 1776, greatly mourned by his people.

VINE ELDERKIN,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Of Windham, Conn., where he was born Sept. 11, 1745. He first appeared as captain in Col. John. Douglass' State Regiment raised for service in the Northern Department, with commission dating June 20, 1776. The regiment went into the field under another colonel, Samuel Mott, and served during the summer and fall of 1776 at Ticonderoga. While doing garrison duty and working on the fortifications, the command suffered from the small-pox, and late in November it returned to Connecticut. Elderkin then, upon recommendation, entered the Continental Army, and was commissioned Jan. 1, 1777, Captain in Col. Swift's Seventh Conn. Regt. With this he doubtless served in Pennsylvania at the battle of Germantown. On Nov. 2d following he resigned. Later, in 1778, an officer of the same name was engaged in the Commissary Department in Massachusetts.

Before the war Captain Elderkin had been living at Wyoming, Penn., where his father, Col. Jedediah Elderkin, was interested as one of the proprietors in the Susquehanna Co. He died at Green-



bush, N. Y., Aug. 15, 1800. His brother, Bela, class of 1767, served in the navy.



EBENEZER GRAY,

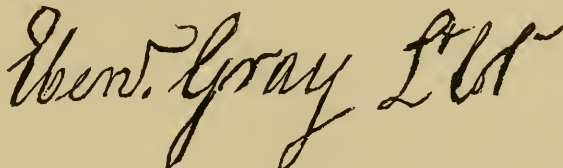
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Continental Army.*

Col. Gray was born at Windham, Conn., July 26, 1743, and practised law there before the war. He seems to have intended settling at Wyoming, Penn., when the crisis called him into the service. He became Second Lieutenant in Putnam's regiment, May 1, 1775, and served through the siege of Boston, taking part, it is said, in the battle of Bunker Hill. January 1, 1776, he was promoted First Lieutenant and Quartermaster of Col. Durkee's regiment, and marched with it to New York. There Gen. Parsons appointed him, August 31, 1776, his Brigade-Major, a position he retained until the spring of 1777. He was doubtless in the retreat from New York and other affairs. In the new Continental Army he became Major of the Sixth Connecticut, Col. Meigs, commission dating January 1, 1777, and served in Putnam's command along the Hudson during the Burgoyne campaign (not in Pennsylvania as stated on p. 74). On October 15, 1778, he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seventh Regiment, Col. Swift's, and thereafter served in the main army along the Highlands and in New Jersey. In the fall of '78, he was stationed at Norwalk, Ct., when he obtained information of the enemy's doings from Long Island, which he reported to Gen. Gates. He once took a party himself to Lloyd's Neck, attacked some Tories, and brought off fifteen prisoners. One of his tours of duty is indicated in the following: "Camp Mandeville, August 12, 1779—Morning Orders 7 o'clock—Four Companies to be immediately detached from the Connecticut Line to march with light packs and Blankets with two days provisions. Lieut.-Col<sup>o</sup> Gray to command the Detachment." At the Morristown huts, during the cold winter of 1779-80, he was for a time in command of his brigade, and in the spring was posted on the advanced lines. In 1781 he



was assigned to the Fourth Regiment, and in 1782 to the Third. For an extract from one of his letters, see p. 128. He retired June, 1783. Member Conn. Cincinnati Soc.

After the war Col. Gray resumed his law practice at Windham and held the office of Collector of Excise for a few years. He died June 18, 1795.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gen. Gray Lt". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with the "Lt" at the end being particularly stylized.

WILLIAM JUDD,

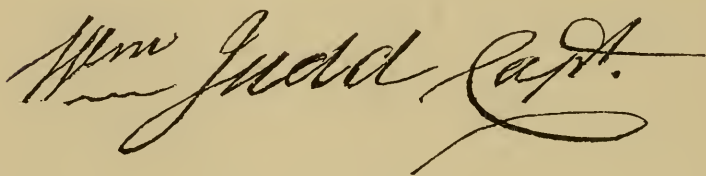
*Captain, Continental Army.*

Of Farmington, Conn., where he was born July 20, 1743, and where he practised as "barrister-at-law" until about 1774-75 when he went to Westmoreland, Penn. He was there in Dec., 1776, when he accepted a Captaincy in Col. Wylls' Third regiment of the new Connecticut Line, commission dating Jan. 1, 1777. He served four years, mainly on the Hudson, at West Point, and in expeditions. Occasionally he appears as Judge Advocate of a court-martial. He retired Jan. 1, 1781, and resumed the practice of law at Farmington, also representing the town several sessions in the Assembly. Politics interested him, and he became a leader in the Jeffersonian republican party. Among other questions he agitated was the sufficiency of the Constitution of Connecticut, no new one having been adopted since the Declaration of Independence. A Convention met at New Haven, Aug. 29, 1804, to move for the adoption of one, over which Judd presided as Chairman. As he was Justice of the Peace, the Connecticut Legislature removed him, with three others, from office for thus questioning the State's Constitutional powers. He proposed to make his own defence before that body at New Haven, but ill health preventing he put his brief into print for general circulation. His strength failing he returned to Farmington on the morning of Nov. 13, 1804, and died there at 11 o'clock on the same evening. On the following day his friends issued his address with this introduction :

These are to you the people, the last words of a respectable individual, lately of your number, of a man, who served for a long time in the characters of a justice of the peace, of an officer of the revolutionary war, of a representative of his town, of a master of the grand lodge of Connecticut, and of Chairman of the Republican Convention.

In the course of a busy life, spent in political councils, and in extensive practice at the bar, Major Judd had the means of understanding the principles of our revolution, and the history and true interests of this State. With uniform integrity and firmness, he asserted his political opinions in opposition to the powers of the State, and this last opinion, for which he was removed, was expressed at a time when he had strong presentiments that his end was near. He was anxious to place before the people the reasons which supported him in the declaration that this State has no Constitution of civil government. . . . The last thing which he felt on this side the grave, was a removal from office, for a declaration of the truth of which he had no doubt.

Major Judd was a member of the Conn. Cincinnati Society.



HEZEKIAH RIPLEY, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Green's Farms, Conn., where his house and church were burned by the enemy during the invasion of July, 1779. He was Chaplain of Silliman's brigade during a part of the campaign around New York in 1776. A statement from his pen briefly describing his experiences on Sept. 15th, the day of the retreat from the city, and the narrow escape of the command, appears in Davis' "Life of Burr." In 1777 he was appointed Chaplain of Col. Chandler's Eighth Connecticut Line, but he never joined it. Dr. Ripley was born at Windham, Conn., Febr. 3, 1743, and died Dec. 1831.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Ephraim Judson, of this class, was invited to become Chaplain of Col. Andrew Ward's Connecticut regiment in the summer of 1776 at New York, but whether he accepted does not appear. He was for some time pastor at Sheffield, Mass.

Rev. Samuel Woodbridge is also mentioned as Chaplain. He was first at Eastbury and then at West Harland, Conn.

SANFORD KINGSBURY,

*Captain, Connecticut State Troops.*

A native of Norwich, Conn., who afterwards lived at Claremont, N. H. He was, doubtless, the Captain Kingsbury who belonged to the State regiment, commanded by Colonel Enos, which served a short time in Rhode Island in 1776-77. Probably he served at other points on alarms during the war. He died in 1833.

EBENEZER MOSELEY,

*Captain, Connecticut State Troops.*

A native of Windham County, Conn., born Feb. 19, 1741. He lived in "Canada Society," and, as stated on p. 15, commanded a company from that place, which organized for service on the Lexington alarm. The company joined Putnam's regiment, and went to the Boston camp, where Captain Moseley took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. He probably remained there through the year. In the early part of 1777 he turned out again, and served under Gen. Spencer in Rhode Island. After the war he became Colonel of the 5th Militia Regiment. By profession he was a minister. An interesting sketch of him appears in the "Moseley" Genealogy. He died in 1825.

*Class of 1764.*

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PETER COLT,

*Deputy-Commissary-General, Continental Army.*

Col. Colt was the youngest son of Benjamin and Miriam (Harris) Colt, of Lyme, Conn., where he was born March 28, 1744. His great-grandfather, John Colt, came from the west of England, about 1634, and settled at Windsor, Conn., in 1637-8, whence his eldest son, John, subsequently moved down the river to Lyme. It was Peter Colt's intention to follow a profession, but in his junior year he, with about eighty other students, was poisoned at breakfast, which so affected his health that he entered into active business life.<sup>1</sup> In 1768 he formed a partnership at New Haven

<sup>1</sup>This poisoning case is noticed in the sketch of Rev. Dr. Isaac Lewis, class of 1765, in Sprague's "Annals of the American Pulpit." Trouble between the students and certain French people in New Haven led to an act of revenge on the part of the latter. One of their number is said to have had access to the college kitchen, and put arsenic into the food for "Commons." Many of the students became seriously ill, and a few died.

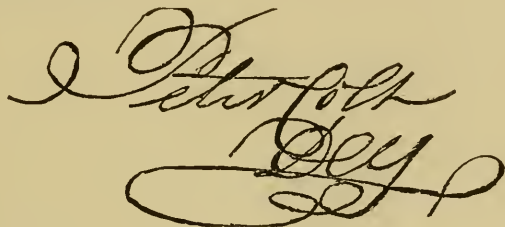
with Capt. Hezekiah Howe in the West India trade, which was kept up until 1775.

Colt took an early interest in public affairs. On May 23, 1774, he was appointed one of the New Haven Town Committee of Correspondence. About May 1, 1775, he became military secretary to Gen. Wooster, but his partner soon dying, he resigned the position to settle his business affairs. While thus engaged, he accepted a proposition from his friend, Col. Jonathan Fitch, class of 1748, resident Commissary of New Haven Co., to assist him in his duties. During this connection he visited the Boston camps. While at Watertown, Mass., Sept. 11, 1775, he sent a spirited letter to young Aaron Burr, whose friends he knew at New Haven, and who was just starting off with Arnold on the Quebec expedition. "You must now think," he wrote him, "only on the bright side, and make the least of every disagreeable circumstance attending your march. Let no difficulty discourage you. The enterprise is glorious, and, if it succeeds, will redound to the honor of those who planned and executed it." In the following year (1776) he acted occasionally as agent for Col. Joseph Trumbull, Commissary-General of the Continental forces, going up the Hudson River, for instance, in September, to purchase flour and provisions. On Aug. 9, 1777, Congress appointed Colt Deputy-Commissary General of Purchases for the Eastern Department, which included New England and New York east of the Hudson—the most important division that fell to any deputy. His duties here were constant and exacting, their nature being indicated in his letters on pp. 96-7; and they also led him into an intimate acquaintance with leading men in Congress and the army. With General Greene and Commissary-General Jeremiah Wadsworth, he was on confidential terms. When Congress adopted the policy, 1780-81, of supplying the army by contract, both Wadsworth and Colt engaged to supply the French troops under Rochambeau, and served them until their departure.

Col. Colt married Sarah, the eldest daughter of Daniel Lyman, Esq., of New Haven, October 19, 1776. About the middle of June, 1778, he moved his office and family to Hartford, but intended to return at the close of the war. He found it impossible, however, to leave Col. Wadsworth, with whom he formed close business arrangements, and he remained in Hartford. From 1789

to 1793 he was Treasurer of Connecticut. In the spring of '93 he resigned, and removed to Paterson, N. J., to take charge of the affairs of the "Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures," a corporation that had been chartered by the State of New Jersey, through the efforts of Col. Alexander Hamilton and Judge Boudinot, of Newark, both of whom had long been his personal friends.

In 1796-7 he went to Rome, N. Y., to superintend the works of the "Western Inland Lock Navigation Company" (the forerunner of the Erie Canal), and upon their completion settled on a large farm at that place. In 1810 he returned to Paterson, N. J., and purchased an interest in the "Society" mentioned above. His sons Roswell and John were already established in business there. Col. Colt died at Paterson, March 16, 1824,<sup>1</sup> Member Conn. Cincinnati Soc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. Ely". The signature is written in dark ink and features a large, ornate initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

SAMUEL ELY,

*Volunteer.*

A native of Lyme, Conn., born Nov. 6, 1740. He became a minister and preached for some time at Somers. During the war and after he appears in Vermont and Massachusetts. It is certain that he was at the battle of Bennington as a volunteer, the fact being brought out in a published charge by one Williams that he was engaged in plundering after the action. A Court of Enquiry at Bennington reported, Sept. 8, 1778, as follows :

" These certify that Mr. Samuel Ely, the Preacher, who was in the two bloody Battles at Benington, and behaved with the greatest Honor, Valiantry, and Courage in both Actions . . . did, when desired, appear before the Court of Enquiry and make a handsome Defence relative to the Plunder he had taken ; as he said what he had taken was at the point of the Sword, as a Volunteer for his groaning, bleeding Country ; and he further said that he supported himself and lived upon his own money while in Camp, and was at no charge to his Country. And the Court being fully satisfied with what he did and what he said, they never ordered Mr. Ely to be advertised."

<sup>1</sup> The writer is indebted to Mr. E. Boudinot Colt, of Paterson, N. J., grandson of Col. Colt, for most of the facts inserted in this sketch.



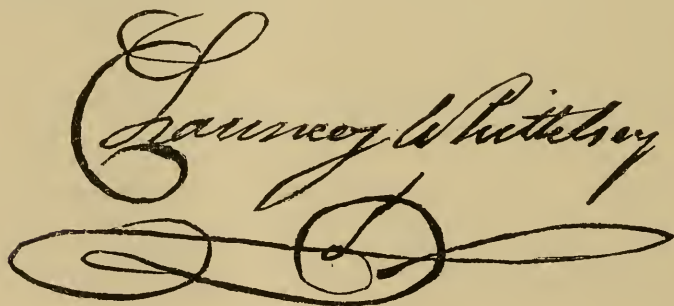
The Committee of Safety of Wilmington, Vt., also published a card, in which they say : " We all know that General Stark said if he had five Thousand such Men as Mr. Ely he would drive Burgoyne and his army to the D——. Besides, we are sorry that Mr. Ely should be so treated by Williams and some others, when no man could exert himself more for his distressed Country than he has done in Various Instances." These papers appear in the New London *Gazette*, Nov. 13, 1778.

After the war Mr. Ely agitated socialistic views, got into trouble, defied the authorities in Massachusetts, was denounced as a " mobber," and arrested. What became of him does not appear. He is supposed to have died in 1795.

CHAUNCEY WHITTLESEY,

*Purchasing Clothier, Connecticut.*

Merchant at Middletown, Conn. ; born Oct. 27, 1746. He was licensed to preach, but went into business on account of his health. During the Revolution he was active as Purchasing Clothier for the State. His name frequently appears in the records, one item in the proceedings of the Governor's Council for Feb. 8, 1777, for example, running as follows : " Chauncey Whittlesey, as Commissary, is directed to deliver to Col. Wyllys, clothes made, or such quantity of cloth, &c., in his hands, for soldiers' clothing as Col. Wyllys should need for the soldiers in his regiment. Mr. Whittlesey also ordered to make soldiers' coats and trim the same in uniform, as Col. Wyllys should direct." He died March 14, 1812.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Jeremiah Hedges, of this class, of Southampton, L. I., is said to have been a Surgeon in the Revolution, and Enoch White, of South Hadley, Mass., a Lieutenant.



# *Roll of Honor.*

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*Class of 1765.*

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MANASSEH CUTLER,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts.*

Dr. Cutler's name is associated most prominently with the Ordinance of 1787, providing for an organized and free Western territory, and the purchase and settlement of Ohio lands. He was a man of varied talents—a pastor who interested himself in public affairs, went to Congress, and also had a relish for scientific research. His native place was Killingly, Conn.—date of birth May 3, 1742. He settled over the church at Hamilton, Mass., and in July, 1778, volunteered as Chaplain of Gen. Tipton's brigade of Mass. militia, which took part in Sullivan's operations against the enemy near Newport, R. I. This appears from his own diary recently published by the late Rev. Dr. Stone, of Providence, in "Our French Allies." The journal contains much interesting and valuable information respecting the movement, but unfortunately ends before the battle of Rhode Island, Aug. 28th, was fought. He is said to have been present in the action. His later efforts in behalf of Western settlers and his appearance in public life, made him a prominent figure of the time. He died at Hamilton, July 23, 1823.

SAMUEL EELLS,

*Captain, Volunteers.*

Mr. Eells was pastor at Branford, Conn., from 1769 to 1808. While Washington was retreating through New Jersey in Nov.—Dec., 1776, the Conn. Legislature called for volunteers to go to his relief. Companies were formed and marched with haste to the Hudson. Mr. Eells announced the call to his parishioners from his pulpit and invited all who would volunteer in the emergency to assemble on the green. Many did so, a company was formed, and Mr. Eells elected captain. They soon were on the march, but the favorable turn in affairs after Trenton and Princeton rendered any lengthened stay in the field unnecessary. Mr. Eells died April 22, 1808, in the 64th year of his age.

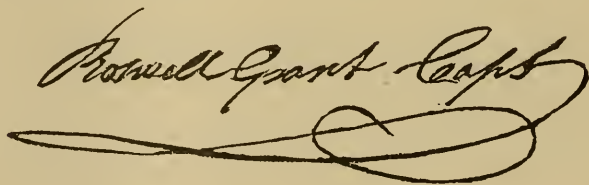
ROSWELL GRANT,

*Captain, Connecticut State Troops.*

A merchant of East Windsor, Conn.; born there March 3, 1746. His father, Captain Ebenezer Grant, descendant of Matthew Grant, who came to America in 1630, had built up a flourishing business in the place, to which Roswell succeeded.

His Revolutionary services consisted of occasional tours of duty within and beyond the State. He was a Captain in Col. Roger Enos' Regiment raised, with five others, early in 1778, for the defence of the State, and "to be held in constant readiness, to march on the shortest notice, wherever the militia were liable to be called." In the summer following, about the time of the battle of Monmouth, when the enemy reoccupied New York with their entire force, the regiment was ordered to the Hudson and arrived there July 3d. It was stationed at Fort Clinton, the rolls showing that Captain Grant was present with his company. This was a three months' tour. Still earlier in the year he was ordered to march "without delay" with a detachment, and report to Gen. Spencer at Providence, R. I., which place the British were threatening. For this service, which was to continue two months, January and February, the Governor's Council allowed Captain Grant's Company £100. Doubtless he was called out in a similar way at different times both earlier and later in the war.

In 1783 the Captain married Flavia daughter of Gen. Erastus Wolcott, of Windsor. He was known afterwards as Major Grant, and was elected several terms to the State Assembly. His death occurred Dec. 31, 1834.



THOMAS GROSVENOR,

*Lieut.-Col. Commandant, Continental Army.*

A resident of Pomfret, Conn., and for many years after the war Chief Justice of Windham Co. Court. He served in the

Revolution nearly eight years and made an honorable record, beginning with a prompt response to the Lexington alarm. May 1, 1775, he was commissional Lieutenant in Putnam's regiment and was closely engaged at Bunker Hill. (See his letter, p. 19.) Trumbull, the artist, gives him a conspicuous place in his painting of the battle. Jan. 1, 1776, he became Captain in Col. Durkee's regiment, and served with it to the close of the Boston siege. Marching to New York he was stationed much of the time at Paulus Hook, now Jersey City. He was present at the battle of Long Island with a party under Knowlton, narrowly escaping capture, and was again with Knowlton's "Rangers" in the successful affair of Harlem Heights, Sept. 16, 1776. Returning to his regiment he participated in the victories of Trenton and Princeton. In the new Continental Army he received promotion, being commissioned Major of the Third Regt. under Col. Wylls, Jan. 1, 1777, and served with it on the Hudson. March 13, 1778, he was promoted Lieut.-Colonel of the Third. By general orders, July 11, 1779, Gen. Heath appointed him Inspector of the Connecticut Division, which position he retained until the spring of 1782. When Washington marched to Virginia he received the additional appointment, Aug. 19, 1781, of Deputy-Adjutant-General to that part of the army left to guard the Hudson. At the close of the campaign he was relieved by Heath's orders as follows :

"HEAD QUARTERS, HIGHLANDS, Dec. 1, 1781.

" . . . Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup>. Grosvenor finding it difficult from the remote situation of the division of which he is Inspector to do the duty of D. A. G. of this army, Lt. Col<sup>o</sup>. Hull [Y. C. 1772,] is appointed to that office and is to be obey'd and respected accordingly. The Gen<sup>l</sup>. requests Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup>. Grosvenor to accept his thanks for the great propriety, and attention with which he discharged the important duties of the office."

On May 29, 1782, Grosvenor was promoted Lieut.-Colonel Commandant (a rank equivalent to Colonel) of the First Conn. Regt., and remained with it on the Hudson until Jan. 1, 1783, when he retired from the service. He had been a "barrister" before the war, and resuming his profession attained judicial positions. Washington put up at his house at Pomfret on his

New England tour in 1791. The Colonel died in 1825. Member Conn. Cincinnati Soc. His valuable order-books are still preserved, and have been consulted in the preparation of these sketches.

*Thos. Grosvenor*

ISAAC LEWIS, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

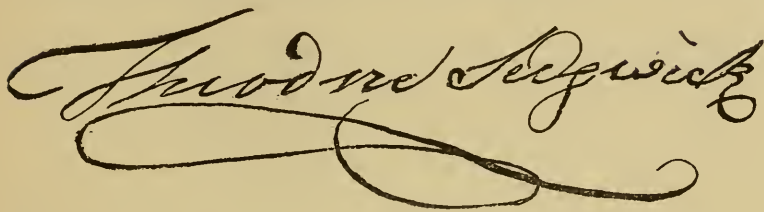
Pastor at Greenwich, Conn.; born at Stratford, Jan. 21, 1746. He was Chaplain of Col. Bradley's regiment from July, 1776, to the close of the year, and was with it in camp at Bergen and other points near New York. He was invited to the chaplaincy of Bradley's Fifth Continental Regt. in 1777, but declined the appointment. Rev. Ichabod Lewis, of the same class, was appointed in his place, but his name is not on the rolls of the Fifth. Dr. Lewis died Aug. 27, 1840, in his ninety-fifth year.

THEODORE SEDGWICK,

*Major and Aid-de-Camp, Massachusetts.*

Prominent as statesman and jurist from 1789 to 1813. He figured in the State Constitutional Conventions after the Revolution, went to Congress, and from 1796 to 1799 was United States Senator. He was born near Hartford, Conn., in the spring of 1746, read law with Col. Mark Hopkins at Great Barrington, and settled in Stockbridge. Early in 1776 he became Military Secretary, with the rank of Major, to Gen. John Thomas, Continental Major-General, and went with him to Canada in May of that year. He was one of the council of officers who advised the abandonment of the Quebec investment. Gen. Thomas died in June, and Maj. Sedgwick retired from service. He was active, however, on local committees, and during the Burgoyne campaign appears to have been a volunteer aid. In the Trumbull MSS. there is a note from Col. Burrall, of Connecticut, stating that he was met by Maj. Sedgwick "with verbal orders from Gen. Lincoln" to stop all the militia on the road to Bennington after

that battle. At the time of his death at Boston, Jan. 24, 1813, he was Judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts.



ROBERT WALKER,

*Captain, Continental Artillery.*

Captain Walker and his younger brother, Joseph, class of 1774, also a Captain in the Revolution, were sons of Hon. Robert Walker, of Stratford, Conn., who graduated in 1730.

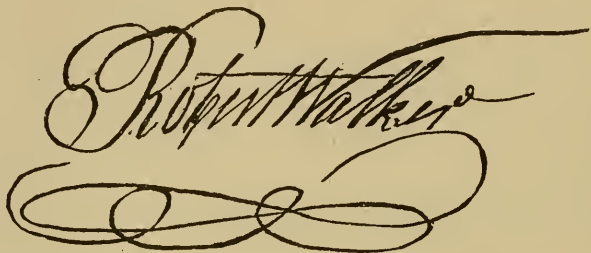
Robert, born at Stratford in 1745, joined the army at an early date, and served nearly to the close of the war. He was appointed Second Lieutenant of Col. Waterbury's State Regiment May 1, 1775, which went to the northern department for that year. In 1776 a regiment on the Continental basis was raised in Connecticut for service in the same department, under Col. Samuel Elmore, and Walker was appointed one of its captains April 15th. With his company he was in garrison at Ft. Schuyler on the Mohawk from October, 1776, until February following, when he was offered a position in Col. Lamb's artillery regiment to be raised in New York and Connecticut. In his letter of acceptance, dated Ft. Schuyler, Feb. 11, 1776, Walker writes to Lamb, who was then living at Stratford :

"Your Honour informs that if I am not too deeply engaged, and will accept of a company under your Hon<sup>rs</sup> Command, it shall be at my service, with the privilege of appointing my First Lieut. & 3 Second Lieuts. Was under no obligations when yours came to hand, tho' I had received a letter from Colo. Swift, by which I was acquainted that the State of Connecticut had appointed me a Captain in his Battalion ; also some other offers made me. After examining the contents, and upon consulting the whole, have determined to accept of your Honour's offer. I must confess my ignorance in that branch, but shall endeavour to give close attention when I shall have opportunity to be instructed, and hope that my conduct may be such that I shall not dishonour the Regt." [MSS. N. Y. Hist. Soc.]

Walker's commission as Captain in the Artillery was dated Jan.



1, 1777. He was generally on duty along the Hudson, at West Point, and forts in the vicinity. Some of the time he was with the Connecticut division. One of Gen. Heath's orders, July 19, 1779, runs: "Captain *Walker*, with his six pounders, now attached to Gen. Huntington's Brigade, is to march with Gen. Nixon's Brigade, and remain with it till further orders." In 1780 he is mentioned as being at the North Redoubt, opposite West Point, Fishkill, and New Windsor. He resigned March 23, 1781. After the war he lived at Stratford and held judicial office. He died Nov. 7, 1810, aged sixty-four.



SAMUEL WHITING,

*Surgeon, Connecticut.*

A native of Stratford. He was appointed in May, 1775, Surgeon's-mate of Col. Waterbury's regiment, of which his father was Lieut.-Colonel. The regiment served in the northern department. He was probably surgeon of the State regiment his father commanded in 1776-77, and again in 1779 at Fairfield when the enemy burned the place. He died in 1832, at Greenwich(?).

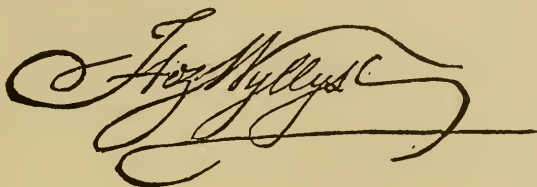
HEZEKIAH WYLLYS,

*Colonel, Connecticut Militia.*

Brother of Colonel Samuel Wyllys, class of 1758, already mentioned. He was born at Hartford in 1747. His brothers were in the Continental army, while he served mainly at home with the militia. He was Captain in Colonel Chester's regiment in 1776, and was probably with it at the battle of Long Island and White Plains. After that he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel Commandant of the First Regiment of Militia and frequently turned



out on alarms. He was in Putnam's force on the Hudson in the Burgoyne campaign, also at Stonington, New Haven, and other points during the war. He also assisted in recruiting the Continental line. "He lived," says Miss Talcott, in notice of the family, "in the old Wyllys house on Charter Oak hill [Hartford], and was the last of the name who resided there." His death occurred March 29, 1827.<sup>1</sup>



*Class of 1766.*

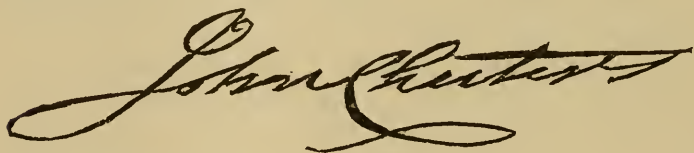
JOHN CHESTER,

*Colonel, Connecticut State Troops.*

Resident of Wethersfield, Conn., where he was born January 29, 1749. He descended in the fifth generation from Leonard Chester, of Leicestershire, England, who settled at Wethersfield about 1635. The Colonel was a man of influence and position, and personally popular. Upon the Lexington alarm he hurried toward Boston at the head of a well-equipped company of about a hundred men, which is mentioned as the "elite corps" of the provincial forces in that camp. "As such," says Swett, "it was selected, on the 6th June, to escort Gen. Putnam and Warren, President of Congress, to Charleston, on the exchange of prisoners with the British." Capt. Chester led this company, which belonged to Spencer's regiment, into the Bunker Hill fight, where it distinguished itself. His account of the action appears on page 18. In January, 1776, he was promoted major of Col. Erastus Wolcott's regiment, raised for a brief term of service at the siege, and was one of the first officers to enter Boston when

<sup>1</sup> John Elderkin of this class, was without much doubt the officer of the same name who was Quartermaster of Colonel Chas. Webb's Conn. regiment in 1776, and again in 1777. There was such an officer at West Point in 1780. He was born at Windham, Conn., Jan. 18, 1742, and died in 1795; distant relative of Captain Vine Elderkin, class of 1763.

the enemy left in March. In a letter to Gov. Trumbull, dated February 19, 1776, Col. Huntington recommends Chester for further promotion as "a fit person to fill any suitable place that may be vacant in the army," and in June following he was appointed colonel of one of the seven regiments of Wadsworth's brigade, raised to serve under Washington at New York to the end of the year. This regiment was engaged at the battle of Long Island, and narrowly escaped capture, being stationed on the outposts near the Flatbush pass, now in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. What part Chester took in the retreat to New York appears in the journal of his Adjutant, Tallmadge, quoted on page 49. Soon after he was made brigade commander, and was present at the battles of White Plains and Trenton. At the close of the year he was recommended for a colonelcy in the new Continental Army, but declined the appointment and returned to private life. On this point his pastor, the Rev. Dr. Marsh, says in his address at Chester's funeral: "Inviolably attached to the cause of his country, with reluctance he retired from the army at the imperious call of his family concerns in 1777, greatly regretted, particularly by the Commander-in-Chief, who expressed a solicitous desire to retain him in the service." After the war, as before, Col. Chester went to the legislature, served as Speaker several terms, and in 1798 was elected a member of the Governor's Council. In 1791, Washington appointed him Supervisor of the District of Connecticut. He was also Probate and County Judge. His death occurred November 4, 1809, from paralysis. Extracts from his letters have been published as stated on page 21, note. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Chester". The script is elegant and cursive, with a large, flowing initial "J" and a decorative flourish at the end.

ANDREW LEE, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Continental Army.*

Pastor at Hanover, now Lisbon, Conn. He was born at Lyme, May 7, 1745, and died August 25, 1832. The rolls of Col. John

Durkee's Fourth Regt., Connecticut Line, show that Dr. Lee was its chaplain from January 1 to October 15, 1777. The regiment was engaged at the battle of Germantown, October 4th.

JAMES LOCKWOOD,

*Secretary and Brigade-Major.*

Born July 9, 1746, at Wethersfield, Conn., where his father, Rev. James Lockwood, class of 1735, was pastor. He was a merchant at New Haven. On the Lexington alarm he appears to have gone in some capacity to the Boston camp. Later he became military secretary to Gen. Wooster, and accompanied him to Canada with Montgomery, who appointed him a brigade-major "in the Northern Army." He was at the capture of St. Johns, at Montreal, and at Quebec in April-May, 1776. This seems to have been the extent of his field service. On September 24, 1777, he was appointed recruiting officer of the First Connecticut Militia brigade. After the war Major Lockwood went to Philadelphia and engaged in business. He is said to have died at Wilmington, N. C., August 24, 1795.<sup>1</sup>

JOHN STRONG,

*Captain, Massachusetts Volunteers.*

Of Pittsfield, Mass. He is referred to as one of the patriotic citizens of the place who served for short terms at different times. In May, 1777, he appears as captain of militia on the Hudson, and again in July at Fort Ann with fifty-four men. September 6, 1777, he is one of thirty-one volunteers, "every man with a horse and meal-bag," and all presumably off for Gates' camp at Saratoga. In August previous he had marched for Bennington, and may have been in that battle. Capt. Strong was a lawyer by profession ; born October 13, 1744 ; died, probably at Albany, in 1815.

<sup>1</sup> David Shepard, of this class, is mentioned as having been a captain, and afterwards surgeon in the Revolution. He was a native of Westfield, Mass.; died at Amsterdam, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1818, where he had settled as a physician.

Dudley Woodbridge, of the same class, a "minute-man." A native of Stonington, Conn., he died at Marietta, Ohio, August 6, 1823.

JOSEPH B. WADSWORTH,

*Surgeon, Continental Army.*

A native of Hartford. He settled at Ellington, Conn., as a physician, and during a part of the war served as surgeon or surgeon's mate on the Hudson. He was doubtless with one of the Connecticut Continental regiments. One of his letters speaking of the sick is dated "Camp, May 1, 1778." He died March 12, 1784, in his thirty-seventh year.

*Class of 1767.*

MOSES ASHLEY,

*Major, Continental Army.*

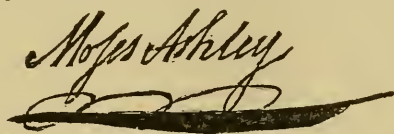
A native of Westfield, Mass., where he was born July 16, 1749; afterwards known as Gen. Ashley, of Stockbridge. Upon the Lexington alarm he marched to Boston as a lieutenant in Col. Paterson's militia regiment, and served with it through the siege. In September, 1775, he appears as recruiting officer for the regiment, and January 1, 1776, as captain. During the summer and fall of that year he served in the Northern Department, then marched south to Washington's camp, and doubtless engaged in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. January 1, 1777, he was commissioned Captain of the First Massachusetts Continental Regt., Col. Vose, and was present with it throughout the Saratoga campaign. After Burgoyne's surrender he marched to Washington's camp again and wintered, 1777-78, at Valley Forge.

In June, 1778, his command was at the battle of Monmouth, and in August following at the battle of Rhode Island. From 1779 to the close of the war he was with the main army on the Hudson, sometimes acting as brigade-major of Glover's brigade and again as inspector. In August, 1780, he was promoted Major of the Fifth Massachusetts Regt., commanded by Col. Rufus Putnam, and continued as brigade inspector during 1781. August 5, 1782, he commanded a light detachment on the outposts and was also one of the majors of the Light Infantry of that year. February 6, 1783, he was transferred from the Fifth to the Sixth Regt., Col. Groaton's, and in June following retired from the army, his service having been continuous for over eight years.

Returning to Stockbridge, where he had married the widow of Col. Thos. Williams, he engaged in business and held office. He appears as County Treasurer in 1788, and as Brig.-Gen. of Militia 1790-91. His death occurred from drowning August 25, 1791. Member Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

The Boston *Centinel* for September 7, 1791, publishes the following obituary :

" It is with the most painful sensations that we announce to the publick the unfortunate death of Brigadier-General MOSES ASHLEY, of Stockbridge, who was drowned at the Dam of his Forge in Lee, on Thursday, the 25th ult. General Ashley, at a very early period of life, received the advantages of an academical education ; and though while at College he was distinguished by industry and decency of behaviour, yet it was not by literary acquisitions that his life was rendered most useful. More active scenes have employed every period of his ripened manhood. While in the bloom of life at the age of twenty-four, when America was aroused to opposition by the usurpations of Great Britain, he, with the ardour of youth and a promptitude of decision, by which he was always distinguished, embraced the profession of arms for the security of freedom. He served until the conclusion of the war, and for several of the last years as a Major in the line of Massachusetts. During the whole time it was his happiness and glory to be greatly respected by his superiours, affectionately beloved and confided in by those of his own grade, and almost adored by his soldiery under his immediate command. Brave, enterprising, active, generous, patient, he possessed those qualities by which military fame is acquired. . . . On all occasions he exerted his influence for the support of the due administration of Justice ; and has uniformly practiced the virtues of a modest and worthy citizen."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Moses Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BELA ELDERKIN,

*Lieutenant of Marines.*

Born at Windham, Conn., Dec. 10, 1751 ; younger brother of Capt. Vine Elderkin, class of 1763. He was appointed by the Governor's Council, Aug. 21, 1776, Lieutenant of Marines, and reappointed to the same position, April 11, 1777, for a cruise on the Connecticut ship of war *Oliver Cromwell* to extend to the middle of October following. He died at Potsdam (?), N. Y., in 1829.



ISAAC KNIGHT,

*Surgeon, Connecticut Troops.*

A physician of East Guilford, now Madison, Conn. He was appointed surgeon of Col. Ely's State regiment, July 3, 1777, a portion of which took part in expeditions to Long Island. Born, May 25, 1745; died, Plainfield, March 8, 1818.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1768.*

JONATHAN BIRD,

*Surgeon, Connecticut Troops.*

A native of New Britain, Conn. He was Surgeon of the 18th and 22d Militia Regiments from Connecticut, under Cols. Pettibone and Chapman, which served at New York and vicinity during the summer and fall of 1776. They formed part of the force under Wolcott. He died in 1813, probably at Simsbury.

THOMAS BROCKWAY,

*Chaplain, Connecticut Troops.*

Pastor at Lebanon Crank, Conn.; born at Lyme in 1744, and died there, suddenly, July 5, 1807. He was chaplain of Col. Samuel Selden's State regiment, Wadsworth's brigade, which served at New York in 1776. His regiment suffered some loss on the day of its retreat from the city, Sept. 15th. Mr. Brockway, who was sick in camp at the time, was removed in a horse cart by a boy and escaped capture. Later in the war when word reached him that the enemy had landed at New London, Sept., 1781, he seized his gun and powder horn, mounted his horse and hurried to the place, arriving too late, however, to be of service.

JONATHAN HEART,

*Captain, Continental Army.*  
*Major, Second Reg't, U. S. A.*

Major Heart, whose long and valuable services and sudden fate have been noticed in the closing chapter in the text, pp. 163-173, was born in Kensington, now Berlin, Conn., in 1744. His father was Deacon Ebenezer Hart, descendant of Stephen Hart, one of the early settlers of Hartford and Farmington. Jonathan and

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Samuel Wales, D.D., of this class, Professor of Divinity at the College from 1782 to 1793, was probably chaplain of Connecticut State troops for a short time in 1775-76. He died at New Haven February 18, 1794, aged 46

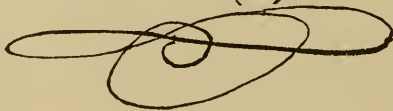
his younger brother John, non-graduate, also a Revolutionary officer, uniformly spelled their name—Heart.

After graduation the Major taught school in New Jersey, but was at home when the war opened, and appears to have started off with the first volunteers in the Lexington alarm. He dates his term of service from May 4, 1775, when he may have enlisted as a soldier in the ranks. According to family tradition he fought as such at Bunker Hill. However this may be, he was early at the front with Connecticut troops at the Boston siege. On Jan. 1, 1776, he appears there as ensign of Col. Wyllys' regiment, and served with it through the year in the New York campaign. His regiment took part in the battle of Long Island, narrowly escaping capture, and was again caught in the panic Sept. 15th, when New York was abandoned. It was present but not engaged at the battle of White Plains. During this campaign Heart was promoted lieutenant, and seems to have been well thought of, as he was again promoted in the reorganized army Jan. 1, 1777, First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Third Regiment, Connecticut Line, commanded by Col. Wyllys. From this time for seven years he was almost continuously on duty. In the summer and fall of 1777, the regiment was posted on the Hudson near Peekskill, and formed part of the small force that vainly attempted to prevent the enemy from ascending the river and burning Kingston. In 1778 it assisted in fortifying West Point. On July 1, 1779, Heart was promoted captain-lieutenant, but continued as adjutant for several months. He appears in this capacity at the Morristown winter encampment 1779-80, at Westfield, N. J., and other places. On May 1, 1780, he was promoted full captain, and transferred, Jan. 1, 1781, to the First Connecticut Regiment, under Col. Durkee. At the same time, by orders of Gen. Parsons, Jan. 2, 1781, he was appointed Brigade-Major and Sub-Inspector of the First Connecticut Brigade—a position, however, which he retained but a short time, as he was detached in the spring to join Col. Gimat's battalion of Lafayette's Light Infantry Corps, just formed for service in Virginia. Heart was with this body throughout its campaign against Cornwallis in that State, and in which it greatly distinguished itself. He was doubtless with it in the severe affair of Green Springs, July, 1781, near Jamestown. It also had the post of honor at the siege of Yorktown, especially at the storming of the redoubts on Oct. 14th, where Gimat's battalion led

the American column. Returning with the army to the Hudson, Captain Heart was transferred, Jan. 1, 1782, to Col. Zebulon Butler's regiment, and served as brigade inspector and quartermaster. In May, 1783, he was transferred to Col. Swift's regiment, stationed at West Point, and was mustered out of the service with it in December of that year.

Heart's subsequent career is outlined in the chapter in the text referred to. In 1785 he was appointed, by the Governor of Connecticut, Captain in Harmar's First American Regiment, raised for service on the Ohio. The brief journal of his march with his company from Connecticut to Pittsburg, Pa., has lately been edited and published by Mr. C. W. Butterfield. While in the Western country he had the opportunity of making useful surveys and observations. For a time, as stated, he commanded the isolated post at Venango, Pa., which Col. Harmar visited in 1788. In a letter to the Secretary of War, June 15th, the latter says: "Captain Heart, with his small command, has done an immense deal of work there. His garrison was found to be in excellent order. There are a number of the Seneca and Monsy tribes continually in his neighborhood, who conduct themselves very peaceably. Indeed, I know of no officer who manages the Indians better than Captain Heart. The Senecas in particular place great confidence in him; he is a great favorite among them" (St. Clair papers). The captain was with Harmar in his luckless expedition against the Indians in the fall of 1790, in which his friend Major Wylls, class of 1773, was killed. On March 4, 1791, Heart was promoted Major of the new Second Regiment of Infantry, U. S. A., which formed part of St. Clair's expedition against the Indians in October–November, 1791. In the disastrous battle of November 4th Heart led his regiment with acknowledged skill and courage, but at about the close of the fighting fell on the field with most of the officers of his command. Extracts from some of his letters appear in the text. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Jon<sup>a</sup> Heart Capt*



THEOPHILUS MUNSON,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Native of New Haven, Conn., where he was born January 4, 1747.<sup>1</sup> According to the Cincinnati Society records he was commissioned captain, March 10, 1776, in which case he may have been the Theophilus Munson who was captain that year in Col. Glover's Massachusetts Regiment, the command that proved so serviceable on the retreat from Long Island in crossing the river, and again at the crossing of the Delaware before the battle of Trenton. He was also at Princeton. Whatever his service it entitled him to recognition, and on January 1, 1777, he was commissioned Captain in the Eighth Connecticut Continental Line under Col. Chandier, which fought at the battle of Germantown and wintered at Valley Forge. It was also present at Monmouth. In 1779 Captain Munson, who commanded the Light Company of his regiment, was detached to Col. Meigs' battalion in Wayne's Light Infantry Corps, and took part with it in the storming of Stony Point on the night of July 15th. He was at the Morristown encampment during the winter of 1779-80. Upon the reduction of regiments, January 1, 1781, he was transferred to Col. Butler's Fourth, and on January 1, 1783, to the First, Col. Swift's, with which he retired from service in the fall. He died March 30, 1795, at Redding, Conn., where he settled on a farm about 1788. His wife was Sarah, widow of Jabez Hill, and daughter of John Read, a leading resident of Redding. In 1804 his widow applied for the government bounty land, due for her husband's Revolutionary services. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*T. Munson*

JOHN PADDLEFORD,

*Surgeon, Continental Navy.*

A physician of Hardwick, Mass., born 1748. He is referred to in Paige's history of the town as a man of vigorous intellect, upright and public-spirited. He entered the Continental Navy as surgeon, was taken prisoner, and died at St. Eustasia in 1779, when about to be exchanged. His younger brother Seth, class

<sup>1</sup> The members of this family have spelled their name variously, Munson and Monson.

of 1770, was a member of the town Committee of Correspondence at the opening of the war.

THOMAS WOOSTER,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Son of Gen. David Wooster, class of 1738. He dates his service in the Cincinnati Society records from October 15, 1776, when he was aid-de-camp to his father at Rye and on the Westchester County border. His father recommended him to Gov. Trumbull for a position in one of the new Continental regiments, and he received a captaincy in Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" regiment, with commission dated January 1, 1777. He was captain of the "grenadier" company, and was in the expedition to Long Island in December, 1777, when his colonel and other officers were captured. The regiment served on the Hudson and at Rhode Island during 1777 and 1778. Wooster did not continue in the army much after the latter date, the rolls showing that he was on duty until November 7, 1778, and then furloughed to June 1, 1779, when, according to one of his own memorials, he left the service. After that he was entered as a "supernumerary" officer entitled to a year's pay. From one of his letters to his colonel in the "Webb Reminiscences," May 12, 1780, it appears that he did not draw his supernumerary pay "as I did not enter the service for the sake of pay or rank, and imagine should not have quitted it till the war was over, if you had not been so unfortunate as to be taken from it." He proposed going to Europe in the fall. After the war Capt. Wooster engaged in business and took up his residence at New Orleans. He was lost at sea (as supposed) while on a voyage from New Haven to that place about 1793. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.<sup>1</sup>

*Thos Wooster Capt. —*

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Fowler, of this class, of Westfield, Mass., is mentioned as having been in the Revolutionary army. Born September 5, 1749; died November 26, 1823. He was State Senator.

Nathaniel West, of the same class, was probably the officer of his name who served as lieutenant of a Connecticut State regiment in 1776 and 1777 in the vicinity of New York. He was a son of Judge Zebulon West, of Tolland, Conn., and brother to Surgeon Jeremiah West, class of 1774. Born September 5, 1748; died in Vermont in 1815.



*Class of 1769.*

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DAVID AVERY,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

A native of Franklin, Conn., born April 5, 1746. Few chaplains remained continuously in the service as long as Mr. Avery. When the war broke out he was pastor at Windsor, Berkshire County, Mass., and, upon the Lexington alarm, marched with Paterson's regiment to Cambridge. He was with it during the Boston siege, also in the Northern Department, and again at Trenton and Princeton. About February 15, 1777, he was appointed chaplain of Sherburne's "additional" Continental Regiment, raised in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and later became chaplain of Gen. Larned's Massachusetts Brigade. He served through the Burgoyne campaign, and was afterwards on the Hudson. He resigned on account of ill-health, March 4, 1780, and subsequently settled at Bennington, Wrentham, and Mansfield, Conn. His death occurred in the fall of 1817 at Shepardstown, Va., where he was visiting and preaching. In Sprague's notice of him he is described as of "commanding presence" and an animated pulpit speaker.

ABNER BENEDICT,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor for some time at Middlefield, Conn.; born at North Salem, N. Y., November 9, 1740. He was volunteer chaplain of one of the Connecticut State regiments at New York during the summer and fall of 1776, and was present at the battles of Long Island and White Plains. He died at Roxbury, N. J., November 19, 1818.

TIMOTHY DWIGHT, D.D.,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

Eighth President of Yale College, 1795-1817. Dr. Dwight's devotion to the Revolutionary cause, like that of President Stiles, was based upon something broader than the popular sense of oppression by the mother country. Both seemed to regard the

severance of the old ties as necessary to the normal expansion of the colonist. It was the future with its great promise for this vigorous branch of Saxons to which they looked, and which with them was the true end to fight for after the movement had once begun as an act of self-defence. This is apparent from the address, quoted in the preface, delivered by Dr. Dwight before the college in July, 1776. Its burden is the coming America. To quote again, he says to the students: "You may, especially at the present period, be called into the active scenes of a military life. Should this be your honorable lot, I can say nothing which ought more to influence you than that you fight for the property, the freedom, the life, the glory, the religion of the inhabitants of this mighty empire; for the cause, for the honor of mankind and your Maker." That these words and this view made an impression, and probably determined more than one of his hearers to join the army, can hardly be doubted. It is certain that the two classes of 1776 and 1777, which, with others, must have listened to the address in question, sent out some ardent and noble young officers into the service.

Retiring from his tutorship at the college in the summer of 1777, Dr. Dwight soon after accepted a chaplaincy in the army. He was appointed to Gen. Parsons' Connecticut Continental Brigade, by Congress, Oct. 6, 1777, and probably joined it about the time of Burgoyne's surrender—the brigade being then posted near Peekskill on the Hudson. As David Humphreys, one of Dwight's college acquaintances and afterwards intimate friend, was then Parsons' brigade-major, the first suggestion of the appointment may have come from him. Among other graduates in the brigade were Col. Wyllys, Lieut.-Cols. Grosvenor and Sherman, and Major Gray, with some younger officers who had been students under him during his tutorship. It is said that the first or one of the first army sermons the chaplain preached was inspired by the capture of Burgoyne, and that it made a stir in camp, the text being from Joel ii., 20: "I will remove far off from you the northern army." If this sermon was printed at the time, as stated in one sketch of Dr. Dwight, no copy of it has found its way into our principal library collections. In all probability he preached such a sermon, as he seems to have been profoundly impressed with the event. When he visited the Sara-

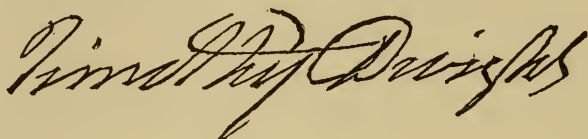
toga battle-field, in the course of his travels years after, he could repeat what he may have foretold in 1777. "Here," he says, "it is impossible not to remember that on this very spot a controversy was decided upon which hung the liberty and happiness of a nation, destined one day to fill a continent, and of its descendants, who will probably hereafter outnumber the inhabitants of Europe." After passing the fall at White Plains and along the border of Westchester County, the brigade went into winter quarters at West Point, and began the construction of the works there. How far the spot was appreciated by the troops may be inferred from one of Parsons' letters to Col. Wadsworth, at Hartford, dated Feb. 22, 1778, in which he says :

"You ask me where I can be found. This is a puzzling question ; the camp is at a place on Hudson's River called West Point, opposite where Fort Constitution once stood. The situation is pass'd description. . . . To a contemplative mind which delights in a lonely retreat from the World to view and admire the stupendous and magnificent works of Nature, 't is as beautiful as Sharon, but affords to a man who loves the society of the world a prospect nearly allied to the Shades of Death ; here I am to be found at present—in what situation of mind, you will easily imagine. Mr. Dwight and Major Humphrey are now here, and a good companion now and then adds to the number of my agreeable family."

While in the Highlands Chaplain Dwight was quartered at times at the Beverly Robinson house, the scene of Arnold's treason, and on one occasion, with Humphreys, visited Fort Montgomery, which had been captured and abandoned by the enemy during the previous summer. His stay in the army, however, was comparatively brief. The death of his father necessitated his return to his home at Northampton, Mass., in the fall of 1778, where he became the settled pastor for several years. A sermon he preached on the occasion of the surrender of Cornwallis, in 1781, was published, and copies of it are extant. His text was from Isaiah lix., 18, 19 : "According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies. . . . When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." To Washington's march upon Yorktown he refers as follows : "The wisdom with which this enterprise was planned, the secrecy, expedition, courage, and conduct with which it was executed, the success and

glory with which it was crowned, and the benevolent manner in which it was used, cast the brightest lustre on our great Commander and the army immediately under him." Extracts from his funeral address on Washington appear in the text, pp. 156-160.

Dr. Dwight was born at Northampton, May 14, 1752, and died at New Haven, January 11, 1817, the distinguished theologian, scholar, and President of the College. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society, to which he was elected July 7, 1795. He subsequently delivered two annual addresses before it.



JABEZ HAMLIN,

*Captain, Connecticut Troops.*

Of Middletown, Conn.; born, 1752. He was the son of Hon. Jabez Hamlin, class of 1728, for many years a man of note in the colony and State, having been elected forty-three times to the legislature, and repeatedly chosen Speaker. When the war opened young Jabez was ensign of the Middletown "training band" under Capt. Return Jonathan Meigs, afterwards the famous Revolutionary colonel, and upon the Lexington alarm he marched with the company to Boston. The record of this service is preserved in the archives at Hartford. Respecting Hamlin's subsequent career, Dr. Field states in his Middletown "Sketches," that he became captain in 1776, and died in the service at East Chester, New York, September 20th of that year. He may have belonged to one of the militia regiments that joined Washington under Gen. Wolcott about the time of the battle of Long Island.

WILLIAM PLUMBE,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

Resident of Middletown, Conn.; born in Westfield Society, January 6, 1749. Entering the ministry, he became a chaplain in the army in the second year of the war, and served in that

capacity for over four years. He joined Col. Thomas Marshall's Massachusetts State Regt., with commission dated September 7, 1776, and was stationed at Castle William, in Boston harbor, for some months. When Marshall's regiment was reorganized for the Continental Line in 1777, Mr. Plumbe continued with it as chaplain, with a new commission dated January 1st of that year. In the spring the command marched to Ticonderoga, where it was assigned to Gen. De Fermoy's brigade, and where, upon the request of many officers, the General appointed him brigade chaplain. Mr. Plumbe doubtless participated in the retreat from Ticonderoga early in July, 1777, after which his brigade formed a part of Gen. Gates' army above Albany. Gates soon appointed him Chaplain of the Hospitals in the Northern Department, an office created by act of the Continental Congress, with commission dated August 20, 1777, and in this capacity he served until the reduction of the army, January 1, 1781, when he retired. He was thus in the field throughout the Burgoyne campaign. These facts appear from records in the Pension Bureau, Washington. After the war Mr. Plumbe settled at Middletown, and although still known as a clergyman, studied and practised law, and held a number of civil offices. He died June 2, 1843, aged ninety-four years, being at that time the oldest graduate of the college.

NATHAN STRONG, D.D.,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

Pastor at Hartford, and eminent as a divine. In the sketch of Dr. Strong in Sprague's "Annals," the writer says: "His energies were all enlisted in his country's cause, and every service that he could render her he did render promptly and cheerfully. For some time he served in the capacity of chaplain. His vigorous pen was often at work in endeavoring to vindicate his country's rights, and to quicken the country's pulse to a higher tone of patriotism." That his interest and influence were appreciated, appears in the fact that the Connecticut Cincinnati Society elected him a member at the same time that Dr. Stiles was elected in 1784. Dr. Strong served as chaplain in Col. Samuel Wyllys' regiment in the summer of 1776, and was probably with it at the



battle of Long Island and the subsequent retreats. On the October returns he is reported "absent sick." He was born October 16, 1748; died December 25, 1816.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1770.*

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JOHN DAVENPORT,

*Major, Connecticut State Troops.*

Judge Abraham Davenport's family, of Stamford, was noted for its public spirit during the Revolution. The father, class of 1732, was for many years prominent in civil affairs. He took a deep interest in the progress of the war, doing what he could by personal effort for the troops. During the campaign of 1776 around New York he cared for the sick soldiers returning home; "filled his own houses with them," says President Dwight, "and devoted to their relief his own time and that of his family, while he provided elsewhere the best accommodations for such as he could not receive." His eldest son, John Davenport, class of 1770, born at Stamford, January 16, 1752, seems to have served for a time as commissary of State troops. He appeared also on several important legislative committees on army affairs. At the June session of the Assembly, 1777, he was appointed major of a regiment raised for six months for State defence. He was a lawyer by profession, and in after life became a member of Congress, serving eighteen years from 1799. He died November 28, 1830. His younger brother James, class of 1779, was also in the service. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.



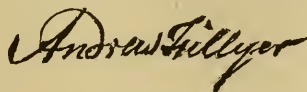
<sup>1</sup> Phineas Fanning, of this class, of Riverhead, L. I., was a Provincial colonel in his county in 1775-6, but appears to have remained on Long Island after its occupation by the enemy, though not entering their service. He was doubtless a brother of Col. Edmund Fanning, the loyalist, class of 1757, mentioned on pp. 98 and 109.

ANDREW HILLYER,

*Captain, Connecticut State Dragoons.*

Col. Hillyer, as he was afterwards known, resided at Simsbury, Conn., where he was born June 4, 1743. Before entering college he served as a soldier in Amherst's campaign in 1760, and as a sergeant at Havana in 1762. Upon the Lexington alarm he marched to Boston, and remained in camp about a month. Returning to Simsbury he was appointed a lieutenant in the town company, and joined Col. Huntington's regiment at the Roxbury camp in July. About a month later, or August 23d, Huntington made Hillyer his Adjutant, speaking of him at the same time as "an old soldier, a sensible man, and good scholar." A member of his company describes him as "a handsome, sprightly young man, who had in early life received a college education." His term in camp expired in December, but he stayed three months longer as a volunteer. In the campaign of 1776 around New York he appears as adjutant of Col. Jonathan Pettibone's militia regiment, and was with it at Kip's Bay, on the East River, when the enemy landed on September 15th, and took the city. During the panic of the militia that morning his command sustained some loss. In the summer of 1777 he served under Putnam on the Hudson, and in 1779 was appointed Captain of a troop in the Fifth Regiment, Connecticut State Light Dragoons, commanded by Major Thomas Bull. With this he was stationed at one time at Horse Neck, and engaged in a dash on Col. Bearmore, the tory partisan, who had proved a terror to the inhabitants near the lines. An account of his exploit appears at the close of Hinman's "Connecticut." He also marched to the relief of New Haven on the occasion of Tryon's raid. In 1782 he was engaged in the duty of hunting up deserters in the New England States.

After the war Hillyer was appointed Colonel of the Fifth Dragoons, and became a man of influence in his locality. He lived to an advanced age, his death occurring at Granby in February, 1828.

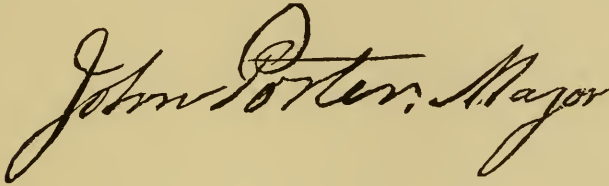


JOHN PORTER,

*Major, Continental Army.*

Son of Rev. John Porter, graduate of Harvard, pastor at N. Bridgewater, now Brockton, Mass. He was born at Brockton, February 27, 1752, and fitted for college at Lebanon, Conn. Studying for the ministry he both preached and taught school in the vicinity of his home until the second year of the war, when he raised a company and joined the Thirteenth Massachusetts Continentals under Col. Wigglesworth. His captain's commission was dated January 1, 1777. In the summer his regiment went into camp at Peekskill, where he was promoted major, June 13, 1777. Ordered to join Gates' force to the northward, he served through the Saratoga campaign, and then marched to Washington's army, wintering at Valley Forge in 1777-78. In June following he was present at Monmouth, and shortly after marched to Rhode Island, where he was engaged in the battle of August 29, 1778, under Gen. Sullivan. There he was for some time in command of his regiment. In January, 1779, by Sullivan's orders, Porter took post with a detachment in the vicinity of Newport to watch the enemy's shipping and secure cattle. In 1780, his regiment having rejoined Washington's army on the Hudson, his military record was marred by a painful experience. While on the march with the main force near Hackensack, N. J., about September 1st, Major Porter resented certain expressions used toward him by Brig.-Gen. Poor, of New Hampshire, and a duel was the result. The General was mortally wounded, and died on the 8th, much regretted as being one of the bravest officers in the service. While duels were not uncommon in the Revolutionary army, this particular affair seems to have been kept a secret, as no reference is made to the true cause of the General's death in any known published or unpublished account written at the time. (See "Porter Genealogy," inserted sheet, p. 51.) Surgeon Thacher states that he died of "putrid fever" after about a week's illness. Major Porter continued in the service, and in the winter of 1780-81 appears as Brigade-Major of the Second Massachusetts Brigade, encamped at West Point. January 1, 1781, he was transferred to Col. C. Smith's Sixth Massachusetts, and thereafter was on duty along the Hudson.

On November 1st of that year he appears as member of a court-martial, of which his classmate, Col. Isaac Sherman, was president. In December following he was granted a furlough by Gen. Heath, but failed to return to camp. His Colonel reporting in June, 1782, that he had gone to France, a court of inquiry was held, and he was dismissed the service by Washington's orders, October 12, 1782, for violation of the Articles of War in going "beyond sea" without proper authority. It is said that Porter went to France with Lafayette, and was there presented to the king and queen. On his return home he sailed for the West Indies on business, and remained there until his death, which occurred, as announced in the New York papers, at Port au Prince, December, 1790.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Porter, Major". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

ISAAC SHERMAN,

*Lieut.-Col. Commandant, Continental Army.*

Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration, gave his two eldest sons, William and Isaac, the benefit of a liberal education which he himself had not received. They graduated in the same class, 1770, and both served in the Revolutionary army. A third brother, John, non-graduate, was also in the war, serving as Lieutenant and Paymaster in the Connecticut Line from 1776 to 1783. The father, who was Yale's Treasurer from 1765 to 1776, lived at the time and until his death on Chapel Street, opposite the college grounds, where the house still stands.

Isaac Sherman was born at New Milford, Conn., June 22, 1753. He proved to be a valuable officer, rising from the rank of captain to the command of a regiment, and seeing much and varied service. From his letter to his father, printed on page 25, it appears that he intended to enter mercantile life and was watching his opportunities in Massachusetts when the war broke out. That

event absorbing public attention, he fell into line with the great body of young men for the country's defence, and entered the Massachusetts service as a captain. According to the Cincinnati record his appointment dated April 27, 1775. During that year he served in Col. Gerrish's regiment, a portion of which fought at Bunker Hill. Sherman's company does not appear to have been present, but was probably on duty in the vicinity of Cambridge; later in the year he was there at "Redoubt No. 1," or "Brookline Fort," as he calls it in his letter, on Sewall's Point. In the new arrangement for 1776 his regiment was known as the "26th Foot," Continental Service, under Col. Loammi Baldwin, which, after the siege of Boston, went with the army to New York and took part in the movements there and in New Jersey to the close of the campaign. March 26, 1776, he was promoted major of the regiment, and as such appears on duty as officer of the day and superintendent of works at New York through the summer and fall. Most of the time his brigade was encamped near the foot of Canal Street on the North River, and did not cross to the Brooklyn front at the time of the battle of Long Island. After New York City was abandoned the army encamped on Washington Heights, and in October marched to White Plains. On the way, on the 18th, Sherman's brigade, then under Col. Glover, encountered the British Light Infantry near New Rochelle, and held its own bravely. From White Plains, where the brigade was not actively engaged, a portion of the army withdrew into New Jersey, and later won the victories of Trenton and Princeton, which greatly revived the spirits of the soldiers and hopes of the nation. As stated in the text, page 59, Sherman is remembered to have led the van of the Continental troops on the night march to Princeton, January 2-3, 1777.

Upon the formation of the Continental Line Sherman entered the service of his own State—Connecticut,—having been brought to Gov. Trumbull's notice by Washington as follows, in a letter of October 9, 1776: "I would mention Major Sherman, son of Mr. Sherman, of Congress, a young gentleman who appears to me, and who is generally esteemed, an active and valuable officer," and one who "promises good services to his country." He was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of Col. Chas. Webb's Second Connecticut Line, commission dated January 1, 1777, and went into camp



with it at Peekskill. During the summer and fall he served in Putnam's command on the Hudson until November 14th, when the regiment was ordered to join Washington's army in Pennsylvania. Soon after its arrival it was engaged in the skirmish at White-marsh, December 8th, and suffered some loss ; it then wintered at Valley Forge. In June following, the army moved out and fought the battle of Monmouth, where Sherman appears to have been actively engaged in the detachment under Gen. Wayne ; and in the fall of the year, 1778, he was Lieut.-Colonel of one of the battalions in Gen. Chas. Scott's Light Infantry Corps, detailed for special service at the front in Westchester County. In the following summer, 1779, he was again detached to serve with Col. Meigs in Wayne's Light Corps, and was present with it at the famous storming of Stony Point on the night of July 15th. His experience with Wayne after the affair is noticed on page 104. At the close of the year Sherman was promoted to the command of the Eighth Regiment, late Col. Russell's, with commission dated October 28, 1779. By a recent act of Congress, all newly appointed regimental commanders were to be styled Lieut.-Colonel Commandant, and by that rank he was thereafter known. (See page 110.) In 1780 he served along the Hudson in the main army, and remained there until January 1, 1783, when he was retired by regimental consolidations. During 1781 he commanded the Fifth Connecticut. Washington intended to detach him to Lafayette's corps, destined for Virginia that year, but Sherman's absence from camp prevented. He figured in connection with Hull's affair early in the year, noticed on page 131.

Sherman was an excellent disciplinarian, as several of his regimental orders, still preserved, clearly indicate. He enforces neatness, proper saluting, exact marching and drilling, and appeals to the soldier's pride and ambition. His own record was among the most honorable in the Connecticut Line. After the war, in 1785, he was appointed by Congress one of the assistant-surveyors of Western territory, and served a while in that capacity. Later he was interested in the "Mississippi Company," and proposed raising a band of old soldiers to settle on the banks of the river, but the scheme fell through. His later years were passed in Connecticut and New Jersey. He died unmarried in Hunterdon County, N. J., February 16, 1819, being at the time a

Revolutionary pensioner under the act of 1818. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Isaac Sherman*

*Lieut. Col.*

WILLIAM SHERMAN,

*Paymaster, Continental Army.*

Eldest son of Roger Sherman and brother of the preceding ; born, probably, at New Milford, November 23, 1751. He appears in 1780 as Lieutenant and Paymaster of Col. Seth Warner's "additional" Continental Regiment, which was raised in the Hampshire Grants and other parts of New England in 1777. It was generally stationed in the Northern Department. After the war Sherman engaged in business in New Haven, where he died June 26, 1789.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1771.<sup>1</sup>*

JOHN BROWN,

*Colonel, Massachusetts Troops.*

The services and death of this high-minded and capable officer have already been referred to in the text. He was a native of Haverhill, Massachusetts ; born there October 19, 1744. During his college course an incident occurred which proved him to be a youth of spirit and action, qualities which were subsequently displayed by him in a marked manner in the field. Dissatisfaction with "Commons" led to quite a revolt among the students during his Senior year, in which he was evidently one of the

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Joseph Buckminster, D.D., of this class, who was tutor at the college from 1774 to 1778, appears as Chaplain on the rolls of Col. Chas. Webb's Connecticut Regiment in October–November, 1776. The college was broken up at that time, and he may have gone to the army for a brief term.

leaders. We have this reference to it from his own pen in a letter written to his relative, Mrs. Elizabeth Arnold, Providence, R. I., date April 7, 1771 :

"I must tell you that there has been much disorder in college since I wrote you my former letter. We complained that we were oppressed in respect to Commons, which was most manifestly the case. But the authority of college not being of our opinion, and refusing to redress us in our way, we left college and went home ; and in about three weeks I, with several others of my class, were cited to meet the trustees of s<sup>d</sup> college on the 23d instant, April. What the Inquisition or Star Chamber Court may determine concerning the matter is uncertain. They intend to expel several, but as we have the civil authority on our side we do not intend to be expelled. So that it is impracticable for me to come to Providence until after our 'trial.'"

How this resulted does not appear, but there was certainly no expulsion, as Brown graduated with full honors. One may infer from Humphreys' remembrance of him, page 124, that he was a pronounced and popular fellow—handsome, athletic, and intellectually gifted. Studying law, he practised his profession first at Johnstown, N. Y., and then at Pittsfield, Mass., where the war found him in active sympathy with the Colonial cause. As stated in the text, he was a member of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in 1774, and early in 1775 was despatched into Canada to ascertain the temper of the people and situation of affairs. When the Connecticut party passed through Pittsfield in May to attempt the capture of Ticonderoga, he joined it and took a leading part in the surprise and seizure of that important fortress. On July 6, 1775, he was appointed Major of Colonel Easton's regiment from Western Massachusetts, and served through the year in the Northern Department under Montgomery, who thought very highly of his services. How Major Brown was generally engaged and what part he took in the Quebec campaign appears on pages 27-30. July 29, 1776, Congress appointed him Lieutenant-Colonel of Elmore's Continental Regiment, raised mainly in Connecticut, and on August 1st, voted that he should take rank from November 20, 1775. Elmore's regiment was stationed at Albany and Fort Stanwix, but Brown does not seem to have joined it ; and in February, 1777, he resigned his commission, which Congress accepted March 15th. In the following summer he was out again as colonel of a Berkshire County regiment, and did some dashing and effective work in Burgoyne's rear, as stated

on page 80. After this he made an attempt on the British post on Diamond Island, in Lake George, but failed through lack of sufficient boats and shipping. That he alarmed the enemy, however, by this bold manœuvre is evident from the account given by the British Captain Hall in his "History of the War." Brown then retired to Pittsfield, or Sandisfield, where his family lived, and resumed his law practice; and in 1780 he appears on the Civil List as Judge of Common Pleas in Berkshire County. In the summer of that year he again, and for the last time, took the field—on this occasion going as colonel of a regiment of levies raised to serve for three months from July 14th. The enemy, with their Indian allies, were then threatening the Mohawk valley, and Brown marched in that direction. On October 19th, while hastening to co-operate with General Van Rensselaer, of New York, he was led by false intelligence into an ambush, where he and many of his men were killed at the first fire. This was in the settlement of Stone Arabia. The Colonel's untimely fate was deeply and widely felt, his earlier services having made him very generally known in the north. Even the enemy were assured that in causing his death they had deprived us of no ordinary soldier. Haldimand, commanding in Canada, reported to Lord Germaine that Sir John Johnson had destroyed settlements and "killed a Colonel Browne, a notorious and active rebel." A letter published in the *London Chronicle* January 25, 1781, referring to Johnson's incursion, says: "He was attacked by a notable partizan, Colonel Brown, who had greatly distinguished himself in reducing the garrison of Fort Chamblee to surrender in 1776, and taking the baggage and cutting off part of General Burgoyne's rear at Fort Ticonderoga Landing in 1777. This successful partizan was killed on the spot with sixty of his men."

Many other interesting facts respecting the Colonel, especially his experiences with Arnold, may be found in Smith's "History of Pittsfield," Stone's "Life of Brant," and other works. He fell on his thirty-fifth birthday. In 1836 his son erected a monument to his memory, which stands near the Dutch Reformed Church at Stone Arabia.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the main text.

DAVID HUMPHREYS,

*Lieut.-Colonel, and A. D. C. to Washington.*

Humphreys was perhaps the most prominent of our Revolutionary graduates, his position in the family of the Commander-in-Chief giving him a certain distinction which no other rank or office could confer. His good fortune in the army was also a stepping-stone to other dignities in civil life.

The Colonel or General, as he was afterwards called, was the son of Rev. Daniel Humphreys, class of 1732, of Derby, Conn., where he was born July 10, 1752. He appears in the army first as a volunteer and acting-adjutant of one of the Connecticut militia regiments at New York, in the summer of 1776—probably that commanded by Col. Jabez Thompson, who was a Derby man. Humphreys himself states that it was one of the last to leave the city on September 15th, and that he took part in the trying scenes of the day. Remaining with the army some time longer he returned to Connecticut, and upon the organization of the Continental Line was appointed captain in the Sixth Regt., with commission dating January 1, 1777. This regiment, commanded later in the year by Col. Meigs, was recruited mainly from New Haven County. During the following spring, in March or April, he received the appointment of brigade-major (asst. adj. gen.) on the staff of Gen. Parsons, and doubtless had much to do with the mustering and equipping of the new regiments which early in the summer were to march to the Hudson. Meantime, for his second experience in active warfare, he accompanied Col. Meigs on his famous Long Island expedition in May, when that officer with 170 men sailed across the sound from Guilford in whale-boats, proceeded to Sag Harbor, burned twelve of the enemy's supply schooners and a large amount of hay, took ninety prisoners, and returned without the loss of a man. Gen. Parsons despatched Humphreys to Washington with an account of this success, which was probably the first occasion on which the Major had a personal interview with the Commander-in-Chief. In the summer and fall of the year he was with Parsons' brigade in Putnam's force on the Hudson, generally in the vicinity of Peekskill, and was quite active in the alarm occasioned by the approach of the enemy up the river when Burgoyne was marching



down from the north. The following winter and spring were spent mainly at West Point, where his brigade began the construction of the permanent works. In the latter part of February of that year, 1778, he undertook a small expedition himself. With thirty volunteers he made a descent on the Long Island shore near Smithtown, to destroy a large ship-of-war aground there. The ship, however, had been floated the day before ; but the party burned a brig, schooner, and sloop, and returned without loss. In the summer of this year we find him taking his turn as " Brigade-Major for the day " in Washington's army as it lay encamped near White Plains after the battle of Monmouth. In the following winter his brigade went into quarters at Redding, Conn., and there on December 18, 1778, Gen. Putnam appointed him one of his Aids. This position he held through the year 1779 and into the spring of 1780, when Putnam, through disability, was unable to return to the army. Humphreys, however, had many friends in the service, among others, Gen. Greene, who at that juncture invited him to join his staff temporarily. Writing to that General from Hartford, on May 23, 1780, he says that the arrival of the French fleet and other circumstances " will induce me probably to accept of the kind offer of coming into your family, in the manner you propose." Greene was at that time with the troops near Morristown, N. J., and early in June Humphreys joined him there. On the 23d of that month occurred the skirmish or battle of Springfield, N. J., noticed in the text, where Greene was in command with Humphreys at his side serving actively as Aid. The latter was directed by Greene to send word of the engagement to Washington, which he did in the interesting letter printed on p. 118.

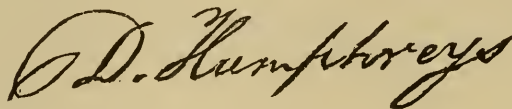
On the same day, June 23, 1780, Washington appointed Humphreys an Aid on his own staff, and with the Commander-in-Chief he served until the close of the war. Col. Hull, class of 1772, states in his "Memoirs" that it was through his recommendation, conveyed through Gen. Parsons, that Humphreys received this last and enviable appointment. (See notice of Hull.) From this time he remained constantly on duty in Washington's family, " never for a moment " having been absent, as he writes in 1784, except on official business ; and here too began that close personal friendship between himself and his chief which

continued through life. About six months after his appointment Humphreys received permission to undertake a daring project—nothing less than the capture of Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander at New York.<sup>1</sup> On Christmas Day, 1780, with three officers and twenty-seven volunteers, he started down the Hudson in one barge and two whale-boats,—his plan being to reach Clinton's head-quarters at the foot of Broadway at night, surprise the guards, and carry him off under cover of the darkness. The scheme failed, however, as a fresh northwest wind rose in the evening and made a landing impossible. The boats were driven past the city, through the English shipping and the Narrows, down to Sandy Hook, whence the party made their way safely to Brunswick and returned to the army a week later, on New Year's Day, 1781. During the following summer and fall occurred the Yorktown campaign, in which Humphreys participated. After the surrender he was commissioned by Washington to convey the captured British flags to Congress, which body voted him an elegant sword on the occasion. Humphreys' grade in the army was still that of captain, but on November 12, 1782, Congress gave him the additional staff rank of lieutenant-colonel, to date from June 23, 1780, when he was first appointed.

At the close of the war Humphreys accompanied Washington on his entry into New York, November 25, 1783, when the city was evacuated by the enemy, and went with him to Annapolis, where the chief resigned his commission. His civil career from this time is too well known to be noticed here. He held various diplomatic positions, first in 1784, as Secretary of Legation to Jefferson in France, then in 1790, Minister to Portugal, and in 1797, Minister to Spain. He lived in Washington's family at Mount Vernon at different times, and finally settled in his native town of Derby, where he engaged in manufactures and agriculture. See in text, p. 153, an interesting letter written to his brother from Mount Vernon, in 1786. His poetical works are familiar. In 1786, he was appointed colonel of a new United States Regiment raised in Connecticut, and in February, 1787, during Shay's rebellion, was on duty with 150 men guarding the

<sup>1</sup> Lieut. Pennington, of the artillery, states in his journal that the German General Knyphausen was the officer to be seized; but others say Clinton, which was more likely.

arsenal at Springfield, Mass. This command, however, was not kept up. During the 1812 war the old Revolutionary soldiers of Connecticut organized as "Veteran Volunteers" with Humphreys as "General-in-Chief." He was also Major-General of the State Militia, and made preparations for home defence. Occasionally he represented his town in the legislature. He died at New Haven, February 21, 1818, and was buried in the old cemetery, where a monument stands over his grave with a fitting inscription in Latin. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.<sup>1</sup>



MARK LEAVENWORTH,

*Deputy Adjutant-General, Connecticut.*

Resident of New Haven; born at Waterbury, May 26, 1752. By profession a lawyer. In the winter of 1776-77 he appears as secretary and assistant adjutant-general to General Wooster while he was stationed on the Westchester border. After the war he went to Paris, where he died Nov. 2, 1812. His brother, Jesse L., class of 1759, was also in the service.



SHADRACH WINSLOW,

*Surgeon, Privateer.*

Physician at Foxboro, Mass.; born at Freetown, Dec. 17, 1750. A notice of him in the "Winslow Memorial," vol. 1., p. 63, says: "After graduation Mr. Winslow studied medicine and became a physician of good attainments, with fine prospects. But at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war his patriotic feelings were aroused to the highest pitch. He became an ardent supporter of the colonies, and resolved to do all possible for the

<sup>1</sup> The writer is under obligations to Mr. Matthew Griswold, of Erie, Pa., for an examination of Col. Humphreys' papers in his possession.

cause. Being a gentleman of means, he contributed largely to fitting out a war ship to attack the enemy upon the high seas, and went aboard of her as a surgeon. The particulars of the first and only voyage the ship made are unfortunately wanting, but it is known that she was captured—it is said off the coast of Spain. All on board were taken prisoners and brought to the Walla-bought Bay, off Brooklyn, and placed in the dismal prison-ships, which the British government in its policy thought wise and perhaps humane to keep there. Here Dr. Winslow was detained a prisoner of war about one year, and suffered much. He used to say that he never fully recovered from the damage his health received." He died at Foxboro Feb. 1, 1817.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1772.*

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ABRAHAM BALDWIN,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

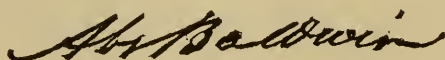
Afterwards U. S. Senator from Georgia. He was born at Guilford, Conn., Nov. 22, 1754, and from 1775 to 1779 was tutor at the college. Upon the retirement of Dr. Dwight from the chaplaincy of Parsons' brigade, in the fall of 1778, Mr. Baldwin was appointed to the vacancy, with commission dating Feb. 1, 1779. His brigade served with the main army along the Hudson, wintering at Morristown, N. J., in 1779-80, and at "Connecticut Village," nearly opposite West Point, during the two winters following. With the reduction of the regiments in 1781 he was transferred to the Second Connecticut Brigade, generally commanded by Col. Swift, while Chaplain John Ellis, graduate of Harvard, continued with Huntington's brigade, which became the First. He remained in the service to the close of the war, and appears as one of the original members of the Connecticut Cincinnati Society. Some of his letters from camp are published in Todd's "Life of Joel Barlow," who was the chaplain's brother-in-law.

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Lewis Beebe of this class is mentioned as surgeon in the Northern Department in 1775-76.

Henry Daggett was probably the State Commissary of his name at New Haven.

Whether the John Hart of this class was the captain of the same name in Col. S. B. Webb's regiment is uncertain. He was the son of Rev. William Hart, of Saybrook, and at the time of his death, in 1828, was called captain.

After the war Mr. Baldwin went to Savannah and entered public life. He became a member of the Continental Congress from Georgia, 1785-88, was a member of the Federal Constitutional Convention, and served as U. S. Senator from 1799 until his death at Washington, on March 4, 1807. He originated the plan of the Georgia University, and was known generally as a public-spirited, able, and kindly man.



SAMUEL AUGUSTUS STILL BARKER,

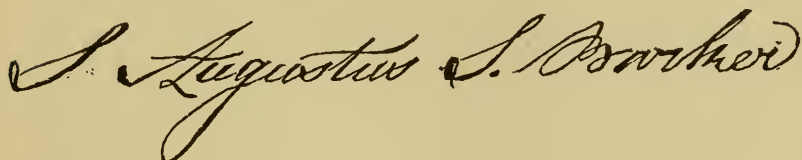
*Captain, Continental Army.*

Son of Judge Samuel Barker, class of 1736, of Branford, Conn., where he was born in October, 1756. He first appears in the army as Adjutant of Colonel William Douglas' Connecticut State Regiment, commission dated June 20, 1776, and served with it through the New York campaign. The regiment was at the Long Island front, August 27th, in the retreat to New York following, and again in the retreat and panic of September 15th, when the city was abandoned. Barker was then acting brigade-major to Douglas' temporary brigade. Doubtless he was with it also at the battle of White Plains. On Jan. 1, 1777, he was commissioned Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Sixth Connecticut Line, first commanded by Douglas, and upon his death by Col. Meigs, and served with it on the Westchester border and along the Hudson. He was in Putnam's command below Albany during the Burgoyne campaign. May 10, 1780, he was promoted captain and transferred to Col. Butler's Second Connecticut, and later in the year he was appointed Brigade-Major and Sub-Inspector of the First Connecticut Brigade. In Feb., 1781, he was detached with a company to serve in Lafayette's Light Corps, which was to attempt the capture of Benedict Arnold at Portsmouth, Va., but which afterwards was directed towards Cornwallis when he entered that State. Barker, with other graduates, experienced all the hardships and successes of that rapid campaign, which finally terminated in the siege of Yorktown. His regiment, under Col. Gimat and Maj. Wyllys,



took part in the skirmish of Green Spring, near Jamestown, in July, 1781, and again formed the storming party that captured one of the enemy's redoubts at Yorktown on the night of Oct. 14th. Returning to the Hudson encampments, he continued in the service until his resignation on April 13, 1782.

After the war Barker removed to the town of Beekman, now Lagrange, Dutchess County New York, through which he must have frequently passed during his military service, and in time came to own a large estate there. He married and left three or four children. Holding local offices, as assessor and supervisor, he also represented Dutchess County in the New York Assembly at eight sessions between 1788 and 1811. In the latter part of his life he was known as "General Barker." Down to 1780 he signed his name as Sam. Augustus Still Barker, and thereafter dropped the "Still." He died at his home, Friday, Nov. 19, 1819, in the 64th year of his age.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "S. Augustus S. Barker". The script is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'S' and a decorative flourish at the end.

JONATHAN BELLAMY,

*Ensign, Connecticut Troops.*

Son of Rev. Dr. Joseph Bellamy, class of 1735, the well-known divine of Bethlehem, Conn. He had lately entered upon the practice of law when the war broke out, but interrupted it by joining Col. Philip B. Bradley's State regiment as ensign, with commission dating June 20, 1776. He was doubtless with it during the New York campaign, being stationed most of the time on the Jersey side at Bergen, Paulus Hook, and elsewhere. A small part of the regiment retreated with Washington's force to the Delaware and took part at the battle of Trenton, but young Bellamy probably was not with it on that occasion, as we have the record that he died of the small-pox at Bethlehem (Oxford), N. J., on or about Jan. 4, 1777, ten days after Trenton. He had lately been recommended for promotion in the new Connecticut Continental Line.

WILLIAM HULL,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Continental Army.*

Afterwards General Hull, of the War of 1812. His revolutionary career is noteworthy not only as being patriotic, highly serviceable, and at times brilliant, but as extending continuously over the long period of nine years.

He was born at Derby, Conn., June 24, 1753, being a descendant of Joseph Hull, who emigrated from Derbyshire, England, in the previous century. When the war broke out he was studying law, but promptly left his books and accepted a lieutenancy in the town company, which joined Col. Charles Webb's Connecticut State Regiment. He was commissioned First Lieutenant July 6, 1775, and went with the regiment to the Boston camps, where he served through the siege. On February 1, 1776, he was promoted Captain in the same regiment, which was reorganized as the "19th Foot" in Washington's army for that year, and served under him in the New York campaign. After the battle of Long Island it was ordered over to the Brooklyn front with other reinforcements, but was not closely engaged. At the battle of White Plains, October 28th, as one of the regiments of McDougall's brigade it helped to defend Chatterton's Hill on the American right flank. Hull was present and active in the affair. Later he took part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton, the former of which he describes in his letter quoted on page 59. The term of his regiment having expired, Captain Hull, upon the request of some Massachusetts officers and the recommendation of Washington, was appointed Major of Col. M. Jackson's Eighth Massachusetts Continental Line, commission dating January 1, 1777. Springfield was designated as the recruiting station of the regiment, and by April, 1777, about three hundred men had joined. With these Major Hull was ordered to reinforce St. Clair's little army at Ticonderoga, which in July following was obliged to evacuate that post. During the retreat from Fort Edward, the Major had an opportunity of showing his skill in handling the rear guard and repulsing an attack. Major Wilkinson recalls this incident in his "Memoirs" as follows :

"As the rear guard of one hundred men was marching from its post to join the main body, it was fired upon by a small party of Indians, and took flight in

open ground. Attracted by the firing I rode up, and was a spectator of the scene ; the guard was commanded by Major Hull, who on horseback was making the most animated exertions to rally his men, which he at length effected, and in turn drove the enemy with great gallantry."

In the struggle with Burgoyne which soon followed, Hull's regiment was again actively engaged. Hull himself had the command of a separate detachment in the battle of September 19th, which fought bravely and sustained heavy loss. In the decisive action of October 7th he again took a prominent part. After the surrender the Eighth Massachusetts, with other regiments, was ordered to Washington's army in Pennsylvania, where it wintered at Valley Forge 1777-78. There Hull was appointed, March 29, 1778, Sub-Inspector of Gen. Larned's brigade, to which he belonged, and received his instructions from Baron Steuben, Inspector-General, who had lately joined the army. In June following he was present at the battle of Monmouth. In the spring of 1779 the Major commanded the advance posts in Westchester County, and on June 2d of that year was placed in command of the seven companies of Massachusetts Light Infantry, which he skilfully led, under Wayne, at the famous storming of Stony Point on the night of July 15th. Hull was subsequently promoted Lieutenant-Colonel, commission dating August 12, 1779, and transferred to Col. Greaton's Third Massachusetts Line. It appears that his claim to this rank was contested and brought to the notice of Washington, who thereupon wrote a long letter to Gen. Heath, December 13, 1779, in which he favored Hull. He speaks of him as "an officer of great merit" whose services had been "honorable to himself and honorable and profitable to his country." "He might," continues Washington, "have been arranged a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Connecticut Line by the Committee of Congress at White Plains in 1778 ; but many of the Massachusetts officers discovered great uneasiness at the idea of his being taken from them ; and he himself, hoping that all were content with his services and rank, generously refused the offer, and determined to remain where he was. But he had a better title than this. I only mention it as a trait of his character."

During 1780 Hull was with the main army, generally along the Hudson. In January, 1781, he conducted the successful expedition against the Tories at Morrisania, referred to on pages 130-132.

When Washington marched to Yorktown in the summer of 1781, Hull was appointed Deputy-Quartermaster of Heath's force left to protect the Highlands and West Point. This office, however, he soon resigned, and on November 21, 1781, he was appointed Division Inspector of the Third Massachusetts and New Hampshire Brigades. A few days later, December 1st, he was assigned the more responsible position of Dep. Adjutant-General under Heath, vice Col. Grosvenor (class of 1765), who had resigned the office, and this position he retained until April 29, 1782, when he received a furlough. As the Massachusetts regiments were subsequently reduced in numbers, Col. Hull was transferred, January, 1783, to the 6th, and on June 16th to the 4th, or Col. H. Jackson's. On the last date he was also appointed to the command of the Light Infantry, and led that corps at the head of the American force that marched into New York when the city was evacuated by the enemy November 25, 1783. A provisional body called the "American regiment" was then organized to serve until July 1, 1784, at West Point, and Hull was appointed its Lieut.-Colonel. With its disbandment his long services in the field terminated.

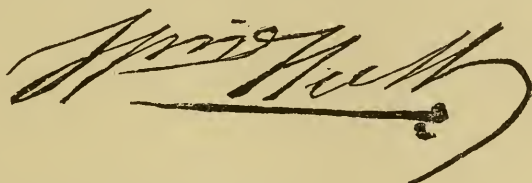
In the "Military and Civil Life of Gen. Hull" many incidents of his revolutionary career appear from his own pen. Among other interesting facts noticed is the invitation from Washington to Hull in 1780 to enter his family as Aid-de-Camp, which the Colonel, however, declined, as he was then Inspector of Howe's Division. Steuben felt that he would be of greater service where he was than as Aid to Washington, and entreated him not to change. Hull states that he accordingly recommended Humphreys to Washington's notice.

After the war Hull was commissioned to treat with Gen. Haldimand in Canada, respecting the transfer of the northwestern posts into American hands, as appears from his letter, on p. 149. In 1787 he assisted in the suppression of Shay's rebellion, and in 1794 was appointed U. S. Commissioner to treat with the British in Canada, and hold treaties with the Indians. In 1805 he was appointed by Jefferson Governor of the Territory of Michigan, and held that office until 1814, being also appointed, in 1812, Brig.-General and Commander of U. S. forces along that frontier. On August 15, 1812, he surrendered Detroit to the enemy, and in January, 1814, was tried by court-martial at Albany and sentenced

to be shot on charges of cowardice and neglect of duty. The execution of the sentence, however, was remitted by the President on the ground of his age and revolutionary services. Hull then retired to Newton, Mass., where he had taken up his residence in 1784, and died there on November 25, 1825. In the militia of the State he rose to the rank of Major-General.

Gen. Hull never wavered in his conviction that the surrender of Detroit was a right and necessary act, and his friends have always regarded him as a victim "sacrificed to the necessity of preserving the Administration from disgrace and ruin." Its own blunders were to be concealed in making Hull the one responsible official in the case. The opinion may be ventured that an impartial review of the evidence by a military court to-day would result in a reversal of judgment.

The General was an original member of the Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of Samuel William Williams, featuring a prominent flourish at the end.

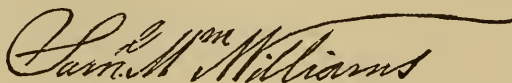
SAMUEL WILLIAM WILLIAMS,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Grandson of Col. Elisha Williams, fourth President of the college ; born at Wethersfield, Conn., in 1752. Upon the organization of the Continental Line he joined Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" regiment, as Lieutenant, February, 1777, and on March 23, 1778, was promoted Captain. The regiment served along the Hudson in 1777, and in the summer of 1778 marched to Rhode Island, under Lafayette, and took an active part in the battle there of August 29th. In June of the following year it helped to check the enemy's advance from Springfield, N. J. By the reduction of the Line, on January 1, 1781, the regiment became the Third Conn., and for a short time in the fall of the year Capt. Williams had the command of it. A brief extract from one of his letters, referring to camp rejoicings over the capture of Cornwallis, appears on p. 139. He retired from the service January 1, 1783.



After the war he settled at Wethersfield, held the office of Town Clerk for twenty years, and was sent to the Legislature several sessions. He died on or about September 14, 1812. Member Conn. Cincinnati Soc.<sup>1</sup>



*Class of 1773.*

ROGER ALDEN,

*Brevet-Major and A.D.C., Continental Army.*

Descendant in the sixth generation of John Alden, of the Mayflower Company; born at Lebanon, Conn., February 11, 1754. Trumbull, the painter, speaks of him in his Autobiography as one of his "very particular friends and companions," and an active member of a military company formed by the younger men of Lebanon in anticipation of war. His elder brother, Captain Judah Alden, of Col. S. B. Webb's regiment, was killed in a skirmish in Westchester Co., August 22, 1777.

Alden was first commissioned Lieutenant and Adjutant of Col. Bradley's Fifth Conn. Line, January 1, 1777. The regiment fought at Germantown, October 4th, and encamped that winter at Valley Forge, where the Adjutant was appointed Brigade-Major of Huntington's Brigade. June 1, 1778, he was promoted Captain-Lieutenant in Col. Butler's Second Conn., and marched with the army to Monmouth. September 1, 1779, he was promoted full Captain, and thereafter served most of the time as Aid-de-Camp, with the brevet rank of Major, to Brig.-Gen. Huntington, being formally appointed to the position by Division Orders, Springfield, N. J., April 1, 1780. He probably spent the winter at the Morristown huts. About a year later, on February 10, 1781, he resigned his commission, and retired to study law, at Fairfield, in the office of Sam. William Johnson. In a letter to Aaron Burr, February 28,

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Dr. John Reed, of this class, for many years Unitarian pastor at West Bridgewater, Mass., is stated, in Drake's "Dict. of Am. Biography," to have served one year as chaplain in the naval service during the Revolution.

1781, he refers to his four years' service, and adds : "I bid adieu to camp, having completed my business, with my thanks to our worthy Commander-in-Chief for his attention to my character. The discharge he gave me equalled my wishes and exceeded my expectations."

Two years after the war, June 23, 1785, Alden was elected Deputy Secretary of the Continental Congress, Governor Trumbull recommending him as "a young gentleman possessed of natural good abilities enlarged by a liberal education, and improved by several years' knowledge of mankind in the public service of his country, in which he acquitted himself with honor and reputation." Upon the adoption of the new Constitution, Washington, as President, appointed him, July 24, 1789, custodian of the books and papers of the old Congress, together with "the great seal of the Federal Union," until Jefferson, Secretary of State, should enter upon his duties. Alden then became Chief Clerk of the Department ; but giving up this position he went to what is now the town of Meadville, Penn., and became interested in lands of the Holland Co., which, in 1796, he advertises for sale, his address being "Mr. David Mead's Settlement, about 40 miles from Lake Erie, in Penn." It would seem that he lived at Meadville until his seventy-seventh year, when the War Department appointed him, January 20, 1825, Military Storekeeper at West Point. On December 30, 1826, he was also made Postmaster at the same place ; and these positions he retained until his death, November 5, 1836. The Major was buried in the Post Cemetery, where his tombstone still stands in a fair state of preservation. Col. Bradford R. Alden, late of the regular army, was his son. Member Conn. and N. Y. Cincinnati Societies.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Alden Maj-Brigade". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

ROYAL FLINT,

*Deputy Commissary, Continental Army.*

A native of Windham, Conn., where he was born January 12, 1754. His grandfather, Joshua Flint, descendant of Thomas

Flint, of Salem, Mass., appears among the early settlers of the place. His father, James Flint, became a prosperous merchant there, and sent his two sons, Royal and Abel, to college—the latter, class of 1785, afterwards the Rev. Dr. Flint, for many years a prominent pastor at Hartford.

Young Flint visited the Boston camps in 1775, where Nathan Hale speaks of meeting him, and returning home, engaged in the early part of 1776, in making saltpetre at Wethersfield. On July 10th following, he was commissioned Paymaster of Col. Andrew Ward's Conn. Continental Regt., which, in August, joined Washington's army at New York. This regiment was at Trenton and Princeton. May 28, 1777, Flint received the appointment of Asst. Commissary of Connecticut State troops with "a captain's pay and rations." As such he distributed clothing to the State's soldiers in Putnam's command on the Hudson in the fall of 1777, as well as during the following winter at Valley Forge. The next year, May 27, 1778, Congress commissioned him Asst. Commissary of Purchases, under Col. Wadsworth, Commissary-General in the Continental Army. In this position he became acquainted with leading officers in the service, among others, Gen. Greene, who, writing from camp, April 14, 1779, to Wadsworth, says: "Mr. Flint dined with me to-day, and is brave and hearty. We wish for another feast of salmon. When may we expect it?" The Commissary's interesting letters, on pp. 114-117, indicate the nature of his duties and difficulties encountered. Another letter, given in full below, is valuable as showing the effect of the depreciation of the currency upon the officers in the army, Flint's case being one of many. It is as follows, addressed to the President of Congress:

"MORRISTOWN, Jan. 23, 1780.

"SIR:—While I see officers of every denomination soliciting an adequate recompense for their services, I cannot, in justice to myself, remain any longer silent. It is, however, with reluctance I trouble Congress with the concerns of an individual, when their attention is so much called to matters more public and important. But if the claim be just, I flatter myself it will not be rejected from want of consequence. My case is this: I accepted the appointment of Assistant Commissary-General of Purchases on the 27th of May, 1778, upon a salary of five dollars per day, two rations for myself and one for my servant, and forage for two horses. As the currency had not then depreciated more

than threefold, I considered that allowance sufficient for my support, and cheerfully entered upon my duty. Since that time the money has been rapidly growing worse, and no additional emoluments have been annexed to my office. The last year of my service I have been obliged to allow my servant higher wages than I received myself, and now find that my expenses amount to several thousand dollars more than my whole pay. My duty has been constant and fatiguing, and of such a nature that no honorary advantages could result from it, however well it might be performed. I have fixed no particular extent to my claim, for I only request that Congress would compare my case with others, and upon this relative view make me a just compensation for past services.

“ I have the honor to be

“ Your Excellency’s most obt. hbl. servt.

“ ROYAL FLINT.

“ His Excellency, S. HUNTINGTON.”

Soon after the foregoing letter was written, Flint decided to retire from the army ; and early in February, 1780, he sent in his resignation. He was still at Morristown, and before returning to Connecticut he wrote as follows to Washington under date of February 6th :

“ SIR :

“ Having finished my service under the Commissary-General, and having no further connection with the department, my authority over the affairs of it are at an end. My continuance here in such a situation will afford no advantage to the public, and consequently no great satisfaction to myself. The circumstances that have compelled my leaving the army have no ways abated my wishes for its prosperity, or my zeal and inclinations to serve it. . . . As it has been my ambition in a public capacity to merit your approbation, so, now I am out of office, I shall be no less ambitious, in whatever situation I am, of manifesting my personal attachment to your Excellency.”

At a later date Flint visited the French troops at Newport, and remarked upon their excellent commissariat. After the war, from 1786 to 1789, he was U. S. Commissioner for settling the Continental accounts of the Eastern States, with residence at Boston. He then became interested in land schemes, taking four shares in the Ohio Company, and appearing as one of the three trustees in the less fortunate Scioto Company. His name is also on the list of purchasers of large tracts in Western New York. In 1792, however, a general crash followed the rage for speculation ; and a letter of that year mentions Flint as among the “ruined.”

Subsequently he went to Charleston, S. C., and died there October 17, 1797.<sup>1</sup>

*Royal Flint*

NATHAN HALE,

*Captain, Connecticut Continentals.*

*"Martyr-Spy" of the Revolution.*

The devoted Hale, to whom reference is made on pages 52-55, was born at Coventry, Conn., some twenty miles east of Hartford, June 6, 1755. He belonged to a typical New England family of the last century, his father, Richard Hale, being a farmer and church deacon who brought up his sons under strict convictions of duty. Nathan and his elder brother, Enoch, entered the same class at Yale, where the former certainly was a general favorite. We have the testimony of more than one of his friends and associates that he was a most attractive character, a youth whose disposition and endowments won for him the respect and love of his fellows to an unusual degree. Perhaps no one could speak of him with better authority or discrimination than Dr. Dwight, who was tutor at the college during the last two years of Hale's course and necessarily knew him well. It is this fact that makes the Doctor's reference to him in his "Conquest of Canaan" a valuable tribute. The extract, well known, will bear repeating :

" Thus, while fond Virtue wished in vain to save,  
Hale, bright and generous, found a hapless grave.  
With genius' living flame his bosom glowed,  
And science charmed him to her sweet abode ;  
In worth's fair path his feet adventured far,  
The pride of peace, the rising grace of war ;  
In duty firm, in danger calm as even,  
To friends unchanging, and sincere to Heaven.  
How short his course, the prize how early won !  
While weeping friendship mourns her favorite gone."

<sup>1</sup> The writer is indebted to Mr. J. F. Morris, of Hartford, for copies of the Flint letters in the text and sketch.



In a note to this passage Dr. Dwight states that it was written early in the war, and, with two or three similar tributes, was inserted in his poem "to indulge the author's own emotions of regard for the persons named." During the war, also, some other friend of Hale, whose name does not appear, remembered him in a longer poetic effort, which is interesting as being more of a personal and descriptive nature. It was first published in the *American Historical Magazine* in 1836 in part as follows :

"Erect and tall, his well-proportioned frame,  
Vigorous and active, as electric flame ;  
His manly limbs had symmetry and grace,  
And innate goodness marked his beauteous face ;  
His fancy lively, and his genius great,  
His solid judgment shone in grave debate ;  
For erudition far beyond his years ;  
At Yale distinguished above all his peers ;  
Speak, ye who knew him while a pupil there,  
His numerous virtues to the world declare ;  
His blameless carriage and his modest air,  
Above the vain parade and idle show  
Which mark the coxcomb and the empty beau ;  
Removed from envy, malice, pride, and strife,  
He walked through goodness as he walked through life ;  
A kinder brother nature never knew,  
A child more duteous or a friend more true."

Hale's classmate, Major Tallmadge, his college-mate and fellow-officer, Colonel Hull, some of his pupils and others, have left us ample evidence of the high estimation in which he was held. Through their recollections and memorials one may see in him a nature not only gifted, but capable of any noble, ingenuous act whenever occasion might call for it.

After graduation Hale taught school, first, at Moodus, Conn., and then at New London, where he was still teaching when the war broke out. The drift of opinion and events, of course, interested him. Thus to his brother Enoch, then at Lyme, he wrote from New London, August 8, 1774, in an unpublished letter : "No liberty-pole is erected or erecting here ; but the people seem much more spirited than they were before the alarm. Parson Peters, of Hebron, I hear, has had a second visit paid him by the Sons of Liberty in Windham. His treatment and the

concessions he made I have not as yet heard." Soon after the Lexington skirmish Hale gave up his school, and on July 6, 1775, was commissioned lieutenant of a company which was attached to Col. Charles Webb's State regiment, and went to the Boston encampment. He served through the siege, and when the regiment was reorganized as the "Nineteenth Foot" in Washington's army of Continentals, to serve until January 1, 1777, he was promoted Captain, with commission dated February 1, 1776. Marching with the army to New York, Webb's regiment was engaged, with the others, in fortifying the city. It was encamped most of the time on the line of Grand Street, near the Bowery, and Hale was with it constantly, absorbed in his military duties. No opportunity, however, was given him to engage in action, which he evidently regretted. His regiment was ordered to the Long Island front on the morning of August 27th, but took no part in the battle, and after the retreat to New York again went into camp. About the 1st of September following, a small body of Rangers was organized under the command of Lieut.-Col. Knowlton, and Hale was accepted as one of its captains. As the Rangers were to be at the front, reconnoitering the enemy, Hale felt that with them he could render some valuable service. The choice, however, was to prove a fatal one. Washington at that time was extremely anxious to obtain information from the enemy's camps respecting their preparations for their next advance and the probable point of attack, and he mentioned the matter to Knowlton, who in turn suggested the service to one or more of his own officers.

"The suggestion appears to have deeply impressed Hale, who, after an interview with Knowlton, went to talk the subject over with his fellow-officer and college friend, Capt. William Hull, of Webb's regiment. This we know from Hull himself. The two captains discussed the question of undertaking the rôle of a spy. Hull used every argument to dissuade Hale from the dangerous service, and appealed to him as a soldier not to run the risk of closing his promising career with an ignominious death. Hale, however, although fully sensible of the consequences of capture, could think of nothing but duty. He told Hull that for a year he had been attached to the army, and had rendered no material service ; that he wished to be useful ; was

uninfluenced by the expectation of promotion or pecuniary reward ; and so far as the peculiar duty in question was concerned, he felt that '*every kind of service necessary to the public good became honorable by being necessary.*'"—*Harper's Magazine*, May, 1880.

Deciding to undertake the perilous errand, Hale disguised himself as a schoolmaster, crossed from Stamford to Long Island, proceeded to New York, which had just fallen into the enemy's hands, and, obtaining information, started to return to the American camp. Then comes the brief and melancholy record that, being either suspected or recognized, he was arrested, examined by General Howe, the British Commander-in-Chief, condemned as a spy, and executed as such on the morning of September 22, 1776.

How Hale bore himself during this ordeal is, fortunately, a point on which we have authentic information. His brother Enoch, hearing of his fate, went to the American camp, then at White Plains, and ascertained that the Captain was "suspected by his movements that he wanted to get out of New York," and that "minutes" being found on his person, he was ordered to be hanged. "When at the gallows he spoke, and told that he was a Captain in the Continental Army, by name Nathan Hale."<sup>1</sup> Captain Hull states, in the published extracts from his MSS. "Memoirs," that he conversed with the British officer who brought word to our lines of Hale's fate, and learned from him that Hale conducted himself with the utmost dignity, and, when examined, frankly avowed his name, rank, and mission. Few persons witnessed his execution, but the officer told Hull that his last words were remembered—an expression of regret that he "had not more than one life to lose for his country."<sup>2</sup>

All this was in perfect keeping with Hale's character. He had sought to do Washington and the country a useful service, but failing, he accepted the consequences with the composure and

<sup>1</sup> See Enoch Hale's brief diary, published as appendix to address by Rev. Edward Everett Hale at New London, September 7, 1881. Boston: A. Williams & Co. 1881.

<sup>2</sup> Hull wrote an account of Hale for Hannah Adams' "History of New England," published in 1799, which appears there in quotations as he gave it. In his "Memoirs," edited by Mrs. Campbell, after his death, he gives further particulars.

devotion that hallow the last moments of all true heroic spirits. Even if nothing more were known of his fate than the mere fact of his execution, his previous conduct and expressions, such as his last conversation with Hull, the tone of his letters and diary, his virtues and motives as recalled by those who knew him, would single him out as a youth to be remembered and his sacrifice one to be fitly commemorated. Thus far his devotion has been honored with two public memorials,—first by a modest monument erected at South Coventry in 1846, and again by an ideal bronze statue provided by the State of Connecticut and unveiled in the Capitol building, Hartford, June 14, 1887. In printed form we have numerous tributes, among which may be mentioned J. W. Stuart's "Life" of Hale; Rev. Edward Everett Hale's address at the Groton Celebration in 1881; Mr. Charles Dudley Warner's address at the unveiling at Hartford, 1887; article in *Harper's Magazine*, May, 1880; a "Poem" delivered before the Alumni Association of Columbia College by John MacMullen, A.M., in 1858; and a "Poem" by Judge Francis M. Finch at the centennial anniversary of the Lincolnian Society, Yale College, in 1853, of which the last stanza is as follows:

" From Fame-leaf and Angel-leaf,  
From monument and urn,  
The sad of Earth, the glad of Heaven,  
His tragic fate shall learn;  
And on Fame-leaf and Angel-leaf,  
The name of HALE shall burn!"

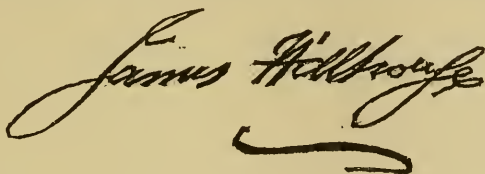
*Nathan Hale*

JAMES HILLHOUSE,

*Captain, Governor's Foot-Guards.*

Afterwards United States Senator from Connecticut. He was born at Montville, in that State, October 21, 1754, but after graduation lived in New Haven, where he practised law. Like his father, who was prominent as a Revolutionary leader in the colony, he took an active interest in the war and at times served in person. He appears as a lieutenant of volunteers to rein-

force Washington, in December, 1776, and may have been in the field a few weeks then. On May 8, 1777, he was elected Lieutenant of the Second or New Haven Company of Governor's Foot-Guards, and two years later, May 3, 1779, was elected its Captain. He held this rank at the time the enemy invaded New Haven in July, 1779, when he marched out promptly with a small company of volunteers and skirmished with the British as they came up through West Haven from their landing-place at Savin Rock. He showed much spirit on the occasion and is remembered as one of the chief figures among those who attempted the defence of the town. In 1779 and 1780 he also did good service at home in recruiting men for the Continental army under Washington. Some of his correspondence in the matter is to be found in the Trumbull MSS., Boston. Rising in influence and reputation, Hillhouse became a Member of Congress in 1791-94, and thereafter sat in the Senate until 1810. He was Treasurer of Yale from 1782 until his death at New Haven, December 29, 1832.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James Hillhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEPHEN KEYES,

*Captain, Connecticut Troops.*

Native of Pomfret, Conn., where he was born, December 6, 1753. He was commissary, probably of Putnam's regiment, in 1775, and served at the Boston siege. On January 1, 1776, he was commissioned First Lieutenant in Col. Parsons' Regt., and was doubtless with it through the New York campaign, taking part in the battle of Long Island and the retreat from the city. In Jan., 1777, he appears on a list of captains for Col. Huntington's Continental regiment, but did not serve. After the war he removed to Burlington, Vermont, where he engaged in business and became Collector of the district. He was there known as Colonel Keyes. His death occurred at St. Albans, Vt., August 2, 1804.



ELIHU MARVIN,

*Adjutant, Continental Army.*

A native of Lyme, Conn., born December, 1752. He first appears in the service as Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Fourth Regt. Connecticut Line, under Col. Durkee, with commission dated January 1, 1777. The regiment fought at the battle of Germantown in October of that year, and wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78. At the latter camp Marvin was appointed Brigade-Major of Varnum's brigade, consisting of two R. I. and two Conn. regiments, and may have been with it at the battle of Monmouth in June, 1778. Soon after this, or before August 1st following, he left the service. Returning to Connecticut, he occasionally served with the militia, appearing, for instance, in March, 1779, as Aid to Gen. Wadsworth when troops were ordered to New London on an alarm. He settled as a physician at Norwich and became Brigadier-General of State Militia. He died September 13, 1798,—an obituary notice saying of him: "Departed this life, on Friday morning, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, of the yellow fever, General Elihu Marvin, whose enlightened understanding, whose philanthropic heart, whose regular deportment and domestic virtues distinguished his character."

EZRA SAMPSON,

*Chaplain, Massachusetts Troops.*

Pastor at Plympton, Mass. Born at Middleboro, February, 1754; died in New York City, December 12, 1823. The sketch of Mr. Sampson in Sprague's "Annals of the Pulpit," says: "In 1775 he acted as volunteer chaplain in the camp at Roxbury, and in July of that year preached a sermon before Col. Cotton's regiment, of so patriotic and inspiring a character that it was immediately printed by request of the army. His heart was warmly in his country's cause; and he lost no opportunity of serving that cause during the whole period of the Revolution."

EZRA SELDEN,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Captain Selden and his cousin, Adjutant Charles Selden, of the class of 1777, were descendants of Thomas Selden, one of the original settlers of Hartford. Joseph Selden, youngest son of Thomas, removed in 1695 to what is now Hadlyme, on the Con-

necticut River, twelve miles from its mouth, and established a homestead which, in 1724, passed to his youngest son, Samuel. This Samuel Selden had two sons, namely, Samuel (second), or the "Colonel," and Ezra, the "Squire," the former inheriting the homestead, and the latter settling in Hamburg Society, six miles below. These two brothers were the fathers, respectively, of the graduates and revolutionary officers, Ezra and Charles.

Ezra, son of "Squire" Ezra Selden, was born March 23, 1752. Representing a patriotic family, he responded promptly to the call for troops after the first alarm, and joined Col. Samuel H. Parsons' regiment at Lyme as Orderly Sergeant, May 6, 1775. With this he went to Boston, and remained through the siege. On January 1, 1776, when the regiment was made the Tenth Continental Foot, he appears as Second Lieutenant. He marched with it to New York, and participated in the trying events of the campaign, being present, no doubt, at the battle of Long Island, and certainly in the retreat from the city September 15th. His regiment was with the army at White Plains, but not actively engaged. Upon the formation of the Connecticut Continental Line Selden was promoted Lieutenant and Adjutant of the First Regiment, with commission dated January 1, 1777, the regiment being commanded successively until 1781 by Colonels Huntington, Prentice, and Starr. This command fought at the battle of Germantown in October, 1777, and then wintered at Valley Forge. An interesting and valuable letter written by Selden from that camp appears on page 87. The surgeon of the regiment, Dr. Albigece Waldo, states in a brief diary that the Adjutant taught him in mid-winter how to darn stockings so that the patch would "look like knit-work," a timely accomplishment in view of the desperate straits the soldiers were reduced to in the matter of clothes. In the following summer the army entered the field and fought the battle of Monmouth, Selden being with it on the occasion, and also in the next camp at White Plains, where he wrote the second of his letters published in the text, page 91. Meanwhile he was promoted captain in his regiment, with rank dating from June 1, 1778. His captain's commission, signed by John Jay, President of Congress, is among the applications in the Pension Bureau at Washington.

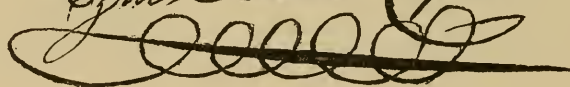
In the movements of 1779 Captain Selden was given the opportunity of distinguishing himself as one of Wayne's Stony Point

heroes. He was Captain of Light Infantry in Colonel Meigs' regiment for the campaign, and engaged in the storming of that post on the night of July 15th. During the attack he was severely wounded in the groin, and was subsequently taken home by his father, who came for him in a carriage from Lyme. Selden's Lieutenant-Colonel, Sill, refers to the assault as follows: "The taking the fort at Stony Point is a convincing proof of the bravery of the Americans, and is acknowledged by our enemies. There has nothing been done in the war that exceeds, or even equalled it. The officers and soldiers that were in the attack have gained immortal honor. Captain Selden received a wound in the back; the ball is extracted, and he will be well soon." The Captain, however, never fully recovered from the shock. He returned to the army, and remained with it until the close of the war, or May, 1783. From 1781 to 1783 he served in Colonel Butler's Fourth, and Colonel S. B. Webb's Third Regiment of the Line.

After the war Captain Selden married, and settled in the practice of law at Lyme, but his constitution was undermined in part by his wound, and he died from hemorrhage December 9, 1874. An obituary notice, written by Dr. Samuel Mather, of Lyme, speaks of him as follows:

"He was a person of a most beautiful aspect and agreeable disposition; his deportment and manner of address was such as attracted the attention and admiration of his acquaintance. Early in life he received a liberal education, and was one of the first that presented himself in the cause of his bleeding country. He served in the various posts from that of an Orderly Sergeant to that of a Captain, which he filled with honor and dignity, and in many instances signalized himself as an excellent officer and soldier; in particular, at the reduction of Stony Point, where he received a dangerous wound at the first attack. Notwithstanding the distresses of his wound and great loss of blood, he was one of the first with his division that mounted the ramparts and displayed that bravery so peculiar to the American officer. He died with that disposition of mind peculiar to those that have an interest in the redemption by Jesus Christ. In him the public have lost a great defender of the privileges and liberties of mankind, and an agreeable citizen; his parents, his wife, with two small children, an affectionate son, and husband, and a tender parent."

Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Ernest Selden Captain*  


BENJAMIN TALLMADGE,

*Major, Continental Dragoons.*

Tallmadge's name, it need hardly be said, stands high in the list of distinguished field-officers of the Revolution. Few of the younger men in the army enjoyed the confidence and esteem of Washington in larger measure.

The Major was born February 25, 1754, at Setauket, Suffolk Co., L. I., where his father, Rev. Benjamin Tallmadge, class of 1747, was long settled as pastor. Upon graduation he taught the High School at Wethersfield, Conn., and was there when the war broke out. He visited the Boston camp in the summer of 1775, but did not decide to enter the service until the following year, when he became Adjutant of the State regiment under Col. Chester, with commission dated June 20, 1776. His regiment served in Wadsworth's brigade at New York, and fought at the battle of Long Island. It was stationed at the outposts in the present Prospect Park, and was forced to a hasty retreat to avoid capture. Tallmadge's own account of the affair, and especially of the subsequent retreat to New York and other operations of the campaign, appears in his "Memoirs," published after his death, an extract from which is given on p. 49. When Col. Chester became a brigade commander, Tallmadge was appointed, September 1st, his Brigade-Major, and retained that position until about the middle of December. He was with his command at the battle of White Plains. In the fall of the year when State committees were selecting officers for the proposed Continental Line, Tallmadge was recommended for promotion by his colonel, who highly appreciated his merits, as appears from what he wrote to a friend at Wethersfield, October 3d: "For my part I think it of the last importance to the future well-being of America that good men should now be appointed. No tongue can tell the difficulties this army has laboured under for the want of them. I wish Major Tallmadge might be provided for by Connecticut. I have recommended him . . . all allow him fit for any post." Tallmadge meanwhile accepted a captaincy in a corps of cavalry, which became the Second Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons, under Col. Elisha Sheldon, of Connecticut, and recruited a full company from his own brigade before it returned home. His promptness

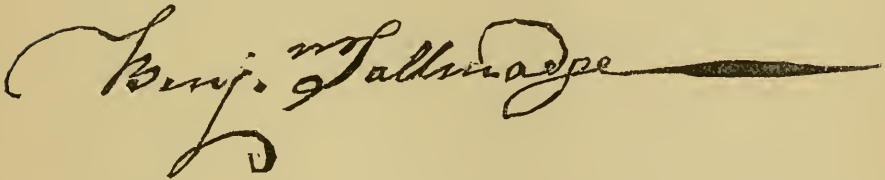
and success in the case enabled him to become senior Captain in his new regiment, with commission dated December 14, 1776. Returning to Wethersfield, he equipped and mounted his company in handsome style, and in the spring of 1777 joined Washington's army in New Jersey. His first experience there was a skirmish with the enemy in the Short Hills. A little later he was promoted Major, with commission dated April 7, 1777, and as such took part in the movements in Pennsylvania leading to the battle of Brandywine, and was engaged in the following battle of Germantown, October 4th. During the remainder of the war the Second Dragoons was generally stationed in the vicinity of the outposts in Westchester Co. and along the Hudson, while Tallmadge himself at times commanded separate detachments, or was of service to the Commander-in-Chief in a special way as indicated on p. 124. His management of the secret service referred to was highly approved by Washington, and his skill in conducting expeditions recognized in flattering terms. He was well acquainted with all the neutral ground between the two armies, and knew what inhabitants could be depended upon for correct information. He signalized himself especially in crossing the Sound and attacking posts on Long Island, as in the case of Fort George, mentioned on p. 126, when he received the thanks and praise of Congress, and again in the case of Fort Slongo, surprised on October 10, 1787, by an expedition planned by Tallmadge, but executed by Major Trescott under his orders. In this connection, also, may be read the interesting letter from Washington to the Major, p. 146, upon the attempted expedition in 1782, described by the latter on p. 145. Tallmadge's own tours of duty along the Westchester front were frequent, to one of which he briefly refers as follows in a note to Col. Webb, dated Crompond, July 6, 1780: "I am to-morrow going on an enterprise down to the Lines with a very respectable command of Horse and foot. I hope the real accounts you hear from me may relate some attchievement. Being on an advanced Post, our Duty is, of course, severe, subject to frequent alarms, and little rest. I have often wished for Miss Webb's faculty of living without sleep, that Duty might not affect me."<sup>1</sup> On one occasion the enemy stole a march upon him and he barely escaped capture.

<sup>1</sup> Webb's "Reminiscences."



The part played by Major Tallmadge in the arrest of André is well known. But for his observation and suspicions that officer might have escaped ; and, indeed, had his advice been followed by his Lieutenant-Colonel Jameson, Arnold himself might have been captured. He was with André much of the time before his execution, and became quite attached to him, as appears from the Major's "Memoirs" and the interesting letter from his pen on page 125.

Tallmadge remained in the service until June, 1783, when the army disbanded. After the war, in common with other officers, he became interested in the Ohio Company, and in 1795 appears as its treasurer. He made one trip to Ohio, but returned and settled at Litchfield, Conn., where he became an influential citizen. From 1800 to 1816 he represented his district in Congress. He died March 7, 1835. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Benj. M. Tallmadge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

JOSHUA LAMB WOODBRIDGE,

*Captain, Massachusetts Militia.*

Son of Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, class of 1732 ; born at Hatfield, Mass., about 1750. He appears at the siege of Boston from May to December, 1775, as lieutenant and sometimes recruiting officer in the State regiment commanded by Col. Benj. Ruggles Woodbridge. His classmate, Nathan Hale, speaks of meeting him in camp there. In the following year he seems to have served a short time in the Northern Department, and in 1777 probably took part in the Saratoga campaign with Massachusetts militia. He is on the rolls of Colonel Tyler's regiment, and in 1778 he was Captain in Colonel Dike's militia regiment, serving in Rhode Island under Sullivan. During Shay's rebellion he rendered General Shepard some assistance, being sent on one occasion

to ascertain Shay's object. Subsequently Woodbridge engaged in business in Boston. When or where he died does not appear in the published record of the family.

JOHN PALSGRAVE WYLLYS,

*Major, Continental Army.*

*Major, First Regiment U. S. A.*

Youngest of the three Wyllys brothers, graduates of the college, referred to in the sketch of Col. Samuel W., class of 1758, and the officer who, after "long and meritorious" services, fell in the Indian wars in Ohio, as described in the closing chapter of the text.

The Major was born at Hartford in 1754, and was apparently living at his father's ample home there when the war broke out. According to one of his own letters and the Cincinnati records, he entered the service as Adjutant of Col. Erastus Wolcott's State regiment, appointment dating January 5, 1776, which served a brief term at the Boston siege early in that year. In the following campaign at New York, Wyllys was appointed, August 7, 1776, Brigade-Major of Wadsworth's brigade of Connecticut State troops, and was doubtless at the battle of Long Island. During the retreat from New York on September 15th, he was taken prisoner by the enemy near Kip's Bay, or along the line of East 34th Street, but was exchanged in the following spring. With the organization of the Continental Line he was commissioned, January 1, 1777, Captain in Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" regiment, referred to on page 66 as "quite a Yale corps," and remained with it to the close of the war. During Burgoyne's campaign the regiment served under Putnam against the British force that moved up the Hudson from New York, and in December of that year was concerned in an unsuccessful expedition to Long Island. In the summer of 1778 Wyllys marched with his regiment from the Hudson camps to Rhode Island, and engaged in the battle fought near Newport, on August 29th. The regiment remaining in Rhode Island over a year, the Captain appears there sometimes on court-martial and again on special duty. One of his letters in the Gates Papers (N. Y. Hist. Soc.) is a report of an expedition he was ordered to undertake to secure stock on the Elizabeth

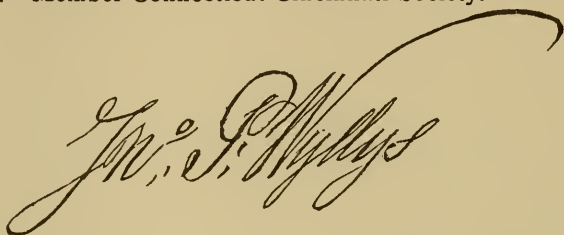
Islands. With a party of fifty men he proceeded, about the 3d of September, 1779, to "Coaxitt," "Cuddahone," "Penekese," and other islands, and on the 9th returned to Bedford. On the 10th he reported as follows :

" The stock upon these Islands far exceeded in value what was supposed—the quantity brought off amounted to about sixty head of neat cattle, the same number of horses, and upwards of five hundred sheep in fine order. I am happy to say that no abuse, either to the person or property of any Inhabitant, has been complained of, and have the pleasure to reflect that I have been successfully employed in depriving the enemies of my country of property which was their own whenever they should choose to take possession—as the event has since proved."

Returning to Washington's army, Webb's regiment wintered, 1779–80, at the Morristown huts, and engaged in June, 1780, in the battle of Springfield, N. J., referred to on page 117. What the Inspector-General, Steuben, thought of this regiment, then under the command of Lieut.-Col. Huntington (class of 1775), appears in his report, printed on page 110. Soon after the Springfield affair, Captain Wyllys commanded one of the Connecticut companies in Lafayette's Light Infantry Corps, and was presently promoted Major, with commission dated October 10, 1780. On January 1, 1781, Webb's regiment became the Third of the Connecticut Line. Wyllys, however, was absent from it the greater part of the year as Major of one of the three Light Infantry battalions which marched with Lafayette to Virginia. He was assigned to the command February 17th, was soon relieved by Major Throop, and in April reassigned. Referring to this, he wrote as follows to Col. Webb on the 18th of that month : " Major Throop yesterday arrived from the Marquis's detachment, and I am *obliged* to take up the tour upon the old appointment. I set off to-morrow for Hartford in order to put myself, in some degree, in a condition to take the field. . . . I am extremely sorry if my going upon this tour shall oblige you to leave your affairs in a manner different from what you wish, but I could not consistent with a soldier's honour have refused it." In Virginia Wyllys distinguished himself with the Light Corps—having command of his battalion in the sharp affair of Green Spring, July 6th, and being with it at the siege of Yorktown following. His regiment was assigned the post of honor at the successful assault on the enemy's forts on the night of October 14th. Returning to the Hudson camps in De-

cember, 1781, Wyllys thereafter remained with the army in the Highlands, taking his turn also in command of the outposts, as appears from his letters on page 143. His regiment, under Col. Swift, in 1783, was the last of the Connecticut Line in the service, and with it he retired from the field in November of that year.

Major Wyllys' record after the war has already been given in the text, pages 163-170. From 1785 to 1790 he was Major of the First Regiment of the regular army on the Ohio frontier, and there fell in action, October 22, 1790, near the site of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He had devoted fourteen years of his life to the country. An appreciative poetic tribute to his memory appears on page 170. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.<sup>1</sup>



*Class of 1774.*

AMOS BENEDICT,

*Connecticut State Troops.*

Of Danbury, Conn. ; born March 17, 1754. In the Benedict genealogy he is said to have been in the service during the year 1776, and that he died of small-pox in camp February 15, 1777. Where or in what capacity he served does not appear.

AARON JORDAN BOGUE,

*Chaplain, Connecticut.*

A native of West Avon, Conn. ; born May 6, 1752. The Albany *Argus* says in obituary notice of him : " He was the oldest of five brothers, all of whom were old enough to take a part in

<sup>1</sup> Gamaliel Babcock, of this class, was probably the " Issuing Commissary " of the same name appointed by Gov. Trumbull's council, July 1, 1777, to assist in the equipment and provision of the Connecticut Continental Line. The officer was from Lebanon.

the Revolutionary War. At that eventful period he, although a clergyman, obeyed the call as a minute-man, was a soldier and twice a chaplain of militia. He lost all his property during the struggle." He was also chaplain during the 1812 war, and remaining in the service, accompanied General Jackson on his Creek expedition. Retiring to New Lebanon, Columbia Co., N. Y., after the Revolution, he died there in the latter part of June, 1826, aged 74 years.

WILLIAM LOCKWOOD,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

Afterwards pastor at Milford and Glastonbury, Conn. ; born at Wethersfield, January 21, 1753. He was tutor at the college in 1779, and in the fall of the following year he joined the army as chaplain. Referring to him in a letter dated October 27, 1780, President Stiles says : " I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Mr. Tutor Lockwood from the army dated 14 inst., wherein he informs that he has accepted a chaplainship in the army in Gen. Nixon's [Mass.] Brigade, and asks to resign the Tutorship." Mr. Lockwood continued in the service to the close of the war, being stationed generally along the Hudson. In 1783 he was Chaplain of Paterson's First Massachusetts Brigade. He died at Glastonbury January 23, 1828. Member Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

NEHEMIAH RICE,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Of Northbury, now Plymouth, Conn. He was the son of Phineas Royce (as the name used to be written), who was the grandson of Nehemiah Royce, one of the first settlers of Wallingford. Phineas married Elizabeth, widow of Daniel Lord, of Lyme, and removed to Northbury about 1736. Their son and fifth child, Nehemiah, born in 1753, was sent to college.

Young Rice entered the service October 15, 1775 ; in what capacity does not appear. On April 15, 1776, he was appointed Lieutenant in Col. Samuel Elmore's Connecticut regiment, raised for service in the Northern Department ; and during the latter



part of the year he was on duty at Albany and Ft. Schuyler, on the Mohawk. January 1, 1777, he was commissioned Adjutant of Colonel Chandler's Eighth Connecticut Continentals, and was doubtless with it at the battles of Germantown and Monmouth, and at Valley Forge. November 15, 1777, he was promoted Captain, and during the fall of 1779 served with Wayne's Light Infantry Corps. At the Morristown winter quarters, 1779-80, he was in temporary command of his regiment. By the new arrangement of January 1, 1781, he went on duty with Sherman's Fifth Connecticut, and served with it until his retirement on January 1, 1783. Captain Rice lived for about ten years after the war, the place or exact time of his death not appearing. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*N. H. Rice*

EZRA STARR,

*Lieutenant, Connecticut Troops.*

Merchant and farmer at Danbury, Conn.; born August 9, 1753. The following reference is made to him in the Starr Genealogy: "In 1776 the State paid for fitting out Lieut. Ezra Starr's company, and in December of that year sent him for the relief of the army that was suffering for clothing, &c. In 1777 he was awarded £2,296, and in 1778 an additional sum for his loss by the burning of Danbury." He was afterwards Captain in the militia, and assisted in forwarding teams and supplies for Continental troops on the Hudson. His death occurred May 5, 1805.

JOSEPH WALKER,

*Captain and A.D.C., Continental Army.*

Younger brother of Capt. Robert Walker, class of 1765; born 1755, at Stratford, Conn. He first appears in the service in 1777 as Lieutenant in Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" Continental Regiment. On August 22d of the same year he was promoted Captain, and served on the Hudson and in Rhode Island. One of his letters, written from the Morristown huts in the winter of

1779-80, appears on page 113. By General Orders of December 15, 1780, Walker was appointed Aid-de-Camp, with the brevet rank of Major, to Major-General Parsons, commanding the Connecticut Line, and remained with him until the General's resignation in March, 1782. On retiring, Parsons recommended Walker to General Gates, who was about to resume command in the army, as follows :

"MIDDLETOWN, April 10, 1782.

"I am happy to hear you again think of aiding our country with your services in the field, and from my former experience of your friendship I am induced to request a place in your family for Captain Joseph Walker, of the 3d Conn. Regt. He has been with me from my appointment as Major-General to this time. Finding myself unable to continue longer in the army, I am unwilling to disappoint the expectations of so good a character in returning him to his Regt. I think you will be fully satisfied with him on acquaintance."

Not being reappointed Aid-de-Camp, however, Walker returned to Captain's duty in his regiment, and later in the year became Brigade-Major of the Connecticut Brigade, which office he held until the army disbanded. He retired September, 1783, to his home at Stratford. After the war he became a man of note, frequently went to the Legislature, and rose to be major-general of militia. He died August 12, 1810, at Ballston Spa, N. Y., where he had gone "in hopes of recovering his delicate health." Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jos. Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

JEREMIAH WEST,

*Surgeon, Continental Army.*

Judge Zebulon West, of Tolland, Conn., a town-worthy of the last century, who was several times Speaker of the Colonial Assembly before the Revolution, sent three of his sons to the college—Stephen, class of 1755, a minister; Nathaniel, class of 1768; and Jeremiah, class of 1774, physician and surgeon. The latter was born at Tolland, July 20, 1753.

Dr. West entered the service as surgeon's mate of Spencer's

Connecticut Regiment soon after the Lexington alarm, appointment dating July 22, 1775. He served two months before that as volunteer. The regiment served at the Boston siege and he remained with it to the end of the year. On Jan. 1, 1777, Dr. West was commissioned surgeon's mate in Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" Continental Regiment, and on June 22, 1778, he was promoted full surgeon. This was the regiment, as stated in the text, which had an unusual proportion of graduates among its officers. The command was ordered to Rhode Island in 1778, and engaged in the battle there of August 29th. He continued in the service until March 3, 1782, when he resigned. His regiment, which had become the Third Connecticut, was then in camp at "Connecticut Village," nearly opposite West Point. Dr. West not only became a prominent physician, having been elected President of the Connecticut Medical Society in 1805, but also held important civil offices. He was Judge of Tolland County Court for fourteen years, and was member of the Assembly for ten sessions. He died October 18, 1806.

ENOCH WOODBRIDGE,

*Commissary, Continental Service.*

Afterward Chief-Justice of Vermont. He was a native of Stockbridge, Mass., where he was born December 25, 1750. In 1775-76 he appears at the Boston siege, and in the reorganization of the troops for 1776 was made Adjutant of Col. John Paterson's regiment. He is entered as such on the February rolls. If he went with the command to the Northern Department for the remainder of the year, he could not have been wounded at the battle of White Plains, as stated in notices of him. He is said to have served in 1777 in the Saratoga campaign. In 1779 he is mentioned in the Vermont records as a "Continental Commissary of Issues," an office which he may have held to the close of the war. Removing to Vermont, he became first Mayor of Vergennes in 1794, and still later Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of the State. He died about April 1, 1805.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isaac Baldwin, of this class, is mentioned as having been in the Wyoming massacre in 1779, and was one of the few who escaped. He was probably the Adjutant of Col. Zebulon Butler's temporary force there. Baldwin was a lawyer of Litchfield, Conn., but removed to Pompey, N. Y., in 1811, where he died December 22, 1818.

# *Roll of Honor.*

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## *Class of 1775.*

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EZEKIEL PORTER BELDEN,

*Captain, Continental Dragoons.*

Of Wethersfield, Conn., where he was born February 12, 1756. His father, Thomas Belden, class of 1751, who was frequently identified with public affairs, commanded a regiment of militia for State defence. Upon the organization of the Second Regiment Light Dragoons, raised mainly in Connecticut, under Col. Sheldon, young Belden received the appointment of Lieutenant, with commission dated December 20, 1776, and on April 7, 1777, was promoted to a captaincy. He was probably at the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, where a part of the regiment was engaged. Subsequently he served along the Hudson, in Westchester County, N. Y., and Western Connecticut, and doubtless took part in the several skirmishes and expeditions in which the Dragoons were concerned. He resigned his commission June 10, 1780.

Like his father, Belden afterwards became a man of considerable note in Wethersfield. Hinman says of him: "He was repeatedly chosen Selectman, was elected Town Clerk in 1812, and held the office uninterruptedly until his death; was a member of almost all the town committees, a justice of the peace, and representative of the town in the General Assembly forty-nine sessions, and was elected to two more in which he declined serving. He was a man of kind and social feelings, gentlemanly and amiable manners, and ready and active in the management of public affairs." For some years he was Lieut.-Colonel of the Sixth Militia Regiment. He died at Wethersfield October 9, 1824.

STEPHEN ROW BRADLEY,

*Captain, Connecticut Troops.*

Afterwards U. S. Senator from Vermont. He was born at Cheshire, Conn., February 20, 1754, and after graduation taught school there. He commanded a company of volunteers for a brief term early in 1776, and a year later appears as Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Wooster at Rye. He is said to have been with the Gen-

eral when he was mortally wounded near Danbury, and also to have served as a Commissary and Militia Major in 1778-79. About 1779 he removed to Vermont, practised law, and entering public life held various offices. In 1791 he was elected one of the first Senators from Vermont, and for a time presided over the Senate. He served two terms. From Westminster, where he first lived in Vermont, he removed in 1818 to Walpole, N. H., and died there December 9, 1830.

DAVID BUSHNELL,

*Captain, Sappers and Miners, Continental Army.*

*Inventor Submarine Torpedo.*

The "ingenious" Bushnell was born at Saybrook, (Parish of Westbrook) Connecticut, about the year 1742, being nearly thirty years of age when he entered college. He early developed a fondness for mechanics, and during his Freshman year projected a submarine boat for offensive use against an enemy's vessel, which he completed about the time of graduation in 1775. This was built at Saybrook, and was subsequently known as the *American Turtle*. The practicability of working the machine having been demonstrated, the attention of Governor Trumbull and his council was called to it in February, 1776, and Bushnell was requested to proceed with his experiments. In the following summer the *Turtle* was taken to New York to operate against the British man-of-war *Asia*, lying off Governor's Island. The attempt was made one night in August, but failed because of the inexperience of a new operator to whom Bushnell was obliged to entrust it. The success of the torpedo, however, as a submarine contrivance for the purpose intended was acknowledged. Later in the year another attempt was made in the Hudson, but again failed through unskilful management. Bushnell then turned his attention to other means of destroying the enemy's shipping, the Connecticut Council having authorized him in April, 1777, to continue in his experiments at the public expense, and for the next two years he was secretly engaged in his efforts at different points. For example, in August, 1777, he floated a machine against the frigate *Cerberus*, lying at anchor in Black Point Bay, west of New London harbor, but it struck a schooner near its stern, and demolished that instead. Commodore Symonds, commanding the



*Cerberus*, was so alarmed at this destructive attempt that he returned to New York to warn naval vessels of the "secret modes of mischief" the rebels were devising. Again about Christmas-time of the same year Bushnell floated kegs of powder down the Delaware against the fleet off Philadelphia, but ice and tide scattering them, they proved harmless. One is said to have blown up a boat with two boys in it, and to have caused a general alarm, which prompted Hopkinson to write his humorous verses on "The Battle of the Kegs." Early in May, 1779, while Bushnell was near Norwalk, Conn., a party of the enemy landed at night and carried him off, with a few others, as prisoner. General Putnam, in reporting the incident to Washington, says: "As the last-mentioned gentleman [Bushnell], who was there in the prosecution of his unremitted endeavors to destroy the enemy's shipping, is personally known to very few people, it is possible he may not be discovered by his real name or character, and may be considered of less consequence than he actually is." The enemy, fortunately, did not recognize him, and he was exchanged a few days later, May 10th, as a civilian. Although not meeting with the success that his ingenuity, with proper practical apparatus, had made possible, Bushnell retained the confidence of those who knew of his work, and to-day he is regarded as our pioneer naval inventor. General Abbot, whose views are quoted on page 56, says in the introduction to his valuable compilation that this graduate "originated the first submarine boat capable of locomotion of which we have any accurate records. To him, therefore, has justly been conceded the credit of inaugurating modern torpedo warfare."

In the summer of 1779 the corps of Sappers and Miners was organized in the Continental Army, and Bushnell was appointed one of its Captain-Lieutenants, with commission dated August 2d of that year. He was warmly recommended for the position by Governor Trumbull and others. On June, 1781, he was promoted full Captain, and going with Washington's force to Virginia participated in the siege and victory of Yorktown. Returning to the Hudson camps, he remained in the service until the disbandment of the last troops in December, 1783. He was then in command of his corps at West Point. One of the garrison orders from General Knox, dated October 25, 1783, runs as follows :

" Captain Bushnell of the Sappers and Miners will be so good as to superintend the repair of the road from the deposit of wood to the Garrison. This being the only passage for the garrison, it must be put into the best state that our means will admit. Capt. Bushnell will call upon the General for particular instructions."

After the war Captain Bushnell returned to Connecticut; but having expended much of his personal property on his inventions, for which he received a very inadequate consideration from the State in 1784, he determined to try his fortunes abroad. He went to France, but returned, and settled as a physician in Georgia, taking the assumed name of Dr. Bush. There he lived in a retired manner until his death in 1826. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*David Bushnell*

HENRY DAGGETT,

*Lieutenant, Continental Army.*

Eldest son of President Daggett, born February 24 (?), 1758. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Colonel Swift's Seventh Connecticut Line, April 28, 1778, and probably joined his regiment at Valley Forge. In that case he must have been with the army at Monmouth in June following. April 11, 1780, he was commissioned First Lieutenant and served as Quartermaster of the regiment, which was thereafter stationed generally in the Highlands. From 1781 to 1783 he was in the Second Regiment under Swift, and left the service with it at the close of the war. After the Revolution he was long a merchant in New Haven, where he died July 20, 1843. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Henry Daggett*

EBENEZER HUNTINGTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Continental Army.*

Son of Hon. Jabez Huntington, class of 1741, who has already been noticed as Senior Major-General of Connecticut militia. He was born at Norwich, December 20, 1754. The circum-

stances under which he entered the service—his spirited flight from college to camp without permission after the Lexington alarm—have been mentioned in the text (p. 9), and frequent references to him follow.<sup>1</sup>

In the Cincinnati Society records he dates his war career from April 21, 1775, the day he left New Haven. Going forward by way of Wethersfield to the Boston camps, he served there as a volunteer until September 8th, when he was appointed lieutenant in Captain Chester's company, in Spencer's regiment. His brother, Colonel Jedidiah H., recommending him to the governor in a letter of August 25th, says: "He has in several instances, whilst at this camp, exhibited evidences of his courage." January 1, 1776, Huntington became First Lieutenant in Col. Wylls' regiment and served with it to the close of the Boston siege and through the campaign around New York. He was doubtless at the battle of Long Island, where his regiment was stationed at one of the Flatbush passes, and again in the retreat from New York and subsequent operations. During this campaign he was promoted Captain, and on October 26, 1776, he received the temporary appointment of Dep. Adj. General to Heath's division, which position he retained to the end of the year.

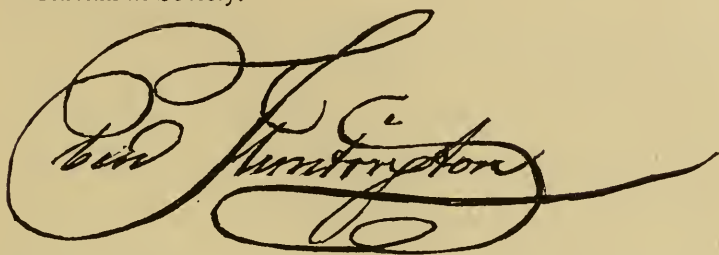
Upon the organization of the Continental Line Huntington was promoted, January 1, 1777, Major of Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" regiment raised in Connecticut, which has been mentioned as having more Yale graduates among its officers than any other, and which was intended to be an *elite* corps in the army. It saw much service and sustained its reputation. During the year 1777 it formed a part of Putnam's force on the Hudson, and early in December engaged in a secret expedition to the Long Island shore. This met with failure, however, and cost the regiment its colonel and other officers taken prisoners of war. Hun-

<sup>1</sup> In a letter dated September 25, 1775, published in the family genealogy, Huntington admits that he left college without leave, and states furthermore that if the Faculty declined to award him a certificate or diploma of graduation on that account, Pres. Langdon, of Harvard, stood ready to give him one. If the date of this letter is correctly printed, Huntington simply had not heard that the Yale Faculty had voted him the degree of A.B., July 25th previous, when all the members of his class received the same. August 8th following Harvard awarded him the honorary degree. The minutes of the Fellows at Watertown read: "Voted, That Ebenezer Huntington, of Norwich, admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts this year at Yale College, be admitted in this College *ad eundem*."

tington was fortunate enough to get back safely. Writing to Gen. Gates, Gov. Trumbull says: "Major Eben<sup>r</sup>. Huntington with eighty men escaped and came to New London the morning of the 14th inst. [Dec.] at Day Brake." Others returned at different points, and the regiment reassembled in winter quarters. In the summer of 1778 it was despatched with other troops into Rhode Island, where it fought well in the battle of August 29th. The Lieut.-Colonel leaving the service presently, Major Huntington commanded the regiment for more than two years after the battle; and that he kept it in excellent shape appears from Steuben's criticism on page 110. Remaining in Rhode Island until the fall of 1779, the regiment next appears in winter quarters at Morristown, N. J., 1779-80, and in June, 1780, it took part in the action at Springfield under Huntington's command, as stated on page 117. See also letters pp. 113-14. In the following autumn the Major was promoted Lieut.-Colonel, with commission dating October 10, 1780. He had received the appointment before that, but a dispute arose between himself and Lieut.-Col. Ebenezer Gray, class of 1763, as to seniority of rank, which caused a long delay, resulting, however, in Huntington's favor—his commission being made to ante-date Gray's by five days. The case was warmly contested, as it was referred successively to the Governor and Council of Connecticut, to the Board of War, to Washington, and by the latter to a court of inquiry, consisting of Major-Generals Gates, Heath, and St. Clair, and Colonels Greaton and Ogden. A final decision was not reached until October, 1782. On June 27, 1781, Huntington was detailed to serve as Lieut.-Colonel of Col. Scammell's Light Infantry regiment, which formed the van of the army, and marched with Washington to Yorktown. Upon Scammell's death at the opening of the siege, Huntington commanded one half the regiment as a separate corps and Col. Laurens the other half, both being assigned to Lafayette's Light Division on the right of the line. For a short time during the operations and after he is said to have served as Aid to Gen. Lincoln. Returning to the North, Huntington remained with the army until the final disbandment in November, 1783. He was then Lieut.-Colonel of Swift's regiment.

After the war Col. Huntington resided at Norwich as a business man, went to Congress two terms, 1810 and 1817, and held the rank of Brigadier and Adjutant-General of the Connecticut mili-

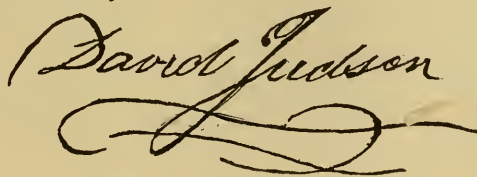
tia for several years. He died June 17, 1834. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Judson". The signature is highly stylized with large loops and flourishes, particularly around the "D" and "J".

DAVID JUDSON,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

A native of Woodbury, Conn.; born March 9, 1755. According to the Cincinnati record his service in the army began June 7, 1776, when he probably joined one of the Connecticut regiments in Wadsworth's brigade at New York. January 1, 1777, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in Colonel Chandler's Eighth Connecticut Line, which fought at Germantown and wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78. Judson was certainly at the latter camp, as in after life he used to recall the fatigues and hardships of the troops there. March 10, 1778, he was promoted First Lieutenant, and was doubtless present at Monmouth in June following. In 1779-80 he acted as Brigade Quartermaster of Parsons' brigade. Wintering at Morristown, he remained with Washington's army, generally along the Hudson, until the close of the war, having in the meantime, May 29, 1782, been promoted Captain in the First Regiment under Col. Zebulon Butler. Returning home, he rose to some prominence, and from 1794 to 1801 was Brigadier-General in the State Militia. In 1806 he removed with his family to Black Lake, in the town of Oswegatchie, N. Y., where Ogdensburg now stands, and died there, February 18, 1818. His son, David C. Judson, was for fifty years identified with the growth and interests of Ogdensburg. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A smaller, handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Judson". It is more compact than the one above but still features elegant flourishes and a large initial "D".



JOHN MIX,

*Lieutenant, Continental Army.*

Of Farmington, Conn.; born 1755. He entered the army as Ensign in the Third Connecticut Regiment, Colonel Wyllys, January 1, 1777, and served at first along the Hudson, and in fortifying West Point. April 28, 1778, he was promoted Lieutenant and Adjutant of Col. Butler's Second Connecticut Regiment, and afterwards acted as Quartermaster. From January 1, 1781, to the close of the war he was in Col. S. B. Webb's regiment in the Highlands. He remained in service until September, 1783. After the war Mix settled in Farmington, and held various offices. He kept the position of Town Clerk for thirty-two years from 1791, represented his town in the Assembly, six sessions excepted, for twenty-five years, and from 1810 to 1820 was Probate Judge. In 1796 the governor appointed him Quartermaster-General of the State Militia, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was thereafter known as Col. Mix. In 1776 he married Martha Cowles, daughter of Solomon and Martha (Spencer) Cowles, who died February 23, 1826, aged 72. Col. Mix himself died April 29, 1834, leaving no descendants. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.



JAMES MORRIS,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Resident of Litchfield, Conn., where he was born January 19, 1752. He first appears in service as Ensign of Col. Fisher Gay's Connecticut regiment, Wadsworth's brigade, which formed a part of Washington's army in the campaign of 1776 around New York. His commission from the governor was dated June 20th of that year. He was at the Brooklyn front during the battle of Long Island, and passed through the subsequent experiences of the army to the battle of White Plains. January 1, 1777, he received the appointment of First Lieutenant in the new Fifth Connecticut Regiment, Col. Bradley's, and served with it in Pennsylvania, where he was taken prisoner at the battle of Ger-

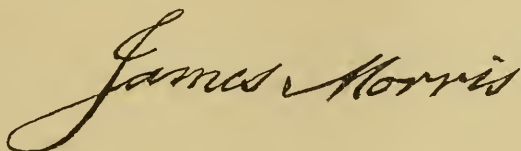
mantown, October 4th. His own interesting account of his capture appears in the extract from his journal, printed on page 74. He remained a prisoner at Philadelphia for about eight months, and then embarked with other prisoners for New York, where he was paroled to certain limits around Brooklyn. He took up his quarters at Mr. John Lott's house in Bushwick, and was not exchanged until January 3, 1781. How he spent his time there appears from his pen in Doc. 57, Vol. III., L. I. Hist. Soc. series. During his captivity he was promoted Captain-Lieutenant, July 29, 1780, and full Captain on August 22d of the same year.

His case is referred to in Division Orders of June 23, 1781, as follows :

"Capt. Morris being a Prisoner at the time of his promotion, and having had no opportunity of being heard on his claim of Rank with Capt. Weed, a Court of Enquiry is therefore to sit this afternoon at the President's Marquee to hear the claims of those officers and report with their opinion. Col. Butler will preside. A Capt. from the 2d and 4th Regts."

In the summer of 1781, not long after rejoining the army, he was detached with his company to serve in Col. Alex. Scammell's Light Infantry Regiment, organized for special duty at the front. It engaged in some skirmishes in Westchester County, and then marched to Yorktown, Va., with Washington. There it was assigned to Lafayette's Light Division on the right of the line of investment, and supported the column under Hamilton, which assaulted one of the enemy's redoubts on the night of October 14th. Captain Morris' reference to the surrender appears on page 138. Returning to the Highlands, he remained in the service until January 1, 1783.

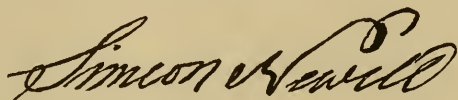
After the war Capt. Morris returned to Litchfield and established the "Morris Academy" for young men preparing for college or business life, which became widely known and patronized. He represented the town in the Assembly several sessions. His death occurred April 20, 1820. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Morris". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the biographical text.

SIMEON NEWELL,

*Captain, Connecticut Troops.*

A native of Southington, Conn.; born February 5, 1748. Descendant of Thomas Newell, one of the first settlers of Farmington. He entered the service in the summer of 1775 as Sergeant in Major Clark's company, Col. Jed. Huntington's regiment, and served through the siege of Boston. October 19, 1775, he was promoted Ensign on the Colonel's recommendation, and again promoted, January 1, 1776, Lieutenant in Huntington's reorganized regiment, which was called the Seventeenth Foot. This regiment served through the New York campaign, and was closely engaged at the battle of Long Island under Gen. Parsons. It fought along the northwesterly edge of the present Greenwood Cemetery, and lost heavily in prisoners. Newell, if with his regiment at the time, escaped, and served to the end of the year. On the October returns, shortly before the battle of White Plains, he appears as one of the only nine company officers in camp fit for duty. He was then recommended for a lieutenancy in the new Connecticut Continental Line; but his name does not appear on the rolls, although his Cincinnati certificate, dated 1786, states that he was Captain. In 1780 he seems to have been on special duty, under the governor's directions, ferreting out traitors and Tories, who were suspected of mischief at various points. In one letter he thanks the governor for his recognition of his services. Some years after the war he removed to Sodus Bay, N. Y., where his eldest son resided, and died there in 1813. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.



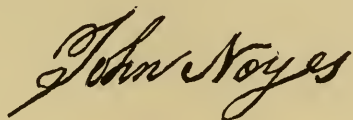
JOHN NOYES,

*Surgeon, Continental Army.*

A physician of Lyme, Conn.; born 1756. He was the eldest son of Judge William and Eunice (Marvin) Noyes, the judge being a grandson of Rev. Moses Noyes, early pastor at Lyme. Dr. John's younger brothers, William and Matthew Noyes, also graduated at Yale. William received an appointment as Ensign

in the army, and his name was placed on the rolls about the time of his graduation, but he did not accept.

Dr. Noyes was commissioned Surgeon of Col. Josiah Starr's First Connecticut Regiment, October 1, 1778, and served to the close of the war. He was stationed generally on the Hudson. Returning to Lyme after the war, he practised his profession successfully until his death, July 11, 1808. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Noyes". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the last name.

WILLIAM PECK,

*Deputy Adj.-General, Continental Army.*

A descendant of William Peck, one of the founders of New Haven Colony. He belonged to the Lyme branch of the family, and was born at that place December 15, 1755. Col. Peck entered the service during the siege of Boston, and remained in it until after the surrender of Yorktown. He appears first as Adjutant of Huntington's Connecticut regiment—the Seventeenth Continental Foot,—January 1, 1776, from which it would seem that he had been in camp before that. He went with the army to New York, and on June 23, 1776, was appointed, by Washington's orders, Brigade Major of Spencer's brigade, and continued in the same capacity when it was placed under Gen. Parsons' command. Upon Spencer's promotion as Major-General, Peck was appointed his Aid-de-Camp, with the brevet rank of Major, August 14, 1776. Spencer's division was transferred to the Brooklyn front, and engaged in part in the battle of August 27th. Major Peck was doubtless active there and during the retreat, as well as in the retreat from New York on September 15th following. The battle of White Plains, October 28th, opened with a skirmish between the enemy and some regiments of his division. In 1777, when Gen. Spencer was sent to take command in Rhode Island, Peck went with him as Deputy Adjutant-General of the forces there. This position he held under Generals Sullivan, Gates, and Heath, who successively commanded that department. The following

*MSS.* note from Sullivan to Gates shows the former's appreciation of him :

" HEAD QUARTERS, PROVIDENCE,

" March the 26th, 1779.

" DEAR GENERAL :

" I beg leave to introduce to your Acquaintance, and recommend to your Patronage, Col<sup>o</sup> William Peck, a Gentleman who has acted as Adjutant-General in this Department since I have had the honor of commanding it. His attention to and observance of the duties of his station as an officer have been so generally acknowledg'd, and his private character so uniformly unexceptionable, that I think myself fully justified in this Recommendation.

" I have the honor to subscribe myself, with Esteem, Dear Genl.

" Yr. obedient and very hble. Sevt.

" JNO. SULLIVAN.

" The Honble. M. Genl. GATES."

After the French contingent arrived in Rhode Island in the summer of 1780, Peck doubtless met many of its officers. The Marquis de Chastellux makes this reference to a visit at his house in Providence :

" The 13th (Nov., 1780) I breakfasted with Colonel Peck : He is an amiable and polite young man, who passed the last summer with General Heath at Newport. He received me in a charming small house, where he lived with his wife, who is young also, and has a pleasing countenance, but without any thing striking. This little establishment, where comfort and simplicity reign, gave an idea of that sweet and serene state of happiness which appears to have taken refuge in the New World, after compounding it with pleasure, to which it has left the Old."

The Colonel retired from the service in October–November, 1781, and settled at Providence, where he died May 19, 1832. For nearly twenty years he was United States Marshal for Rhode Island, a position to which Washington first appointed him. Member Rhode Island Cincinnati Society.

*Wm Peck Adj-Genl*



RICHARD SILL,

*Major and A.D.C., Continental Army.*

A native of Lyme, Conn., where he was born July 15, 1755. He appears first at the siege of Boston, 1775-76, and is entered on the rolls of Col. Parsons' Connecticut regiment, January 1, 1776, as Lieutenant and Paymaster. The regiment, which was the "Tenth Foot" of that year's establishment, took an active part in the campaign around New York. Sill was with it present at the battle of Long Island, and the retreat to New York. On the day the city was abandoned, September 15th, he was caught in the hurried march and panic of the troops, and mentions some of the incidents in testimony he gave before a court of inquiry. January 1, 1777, he was reappointed Lieutenant and Paymaster in Col. Chandler's Eighth Regiment of the new Connecticut Line, which served in the Pennsylvania campaign at Germantown and Valley Forge. He was probably at Monmouth in June, 1778, and is reported "sick in camp" at White Plains, where the army was stationed after the battle, in August following. During the winter of 1779-80 he was at the Morristown huts. Promoted Captain April 22, 1781, in Sherman's Fifth Connecticut, he served along the Hudson, and for a time was assistant to Col. Grosvenor, Deputy Adjutant-General of the Connecticut Division. Still later, September 26, 1781, he was invited to become Aid-de-Camp, with the rank of Brevet-Major, to Maj.-Gen. Lord Stirling, with whom he remained until his death on January 14, 1783. His letter reporting the General's death to Washington appears on page 148. The Major then being at Albany, studied law in the office of Aaron Burr, where he also met Hamilton, and established himself in the profession in that city. His career was successful, but cut short by impaired health, his death occurring June 4, 1790, at Bethlehem, N. Y., at the residence of Col. Francis Nicoll, whose daughter Elizabeth Major Sill had married May 2, 1785. He served two sessions in the Assembly, and not long before his decease had been appointed one of the New York commissioners on the disputed Vermont boundary. Noticing his death, the *Albany Gazette* says: "It would be a piece of injustice not to observe on this occasion that, independent of the services of this gentleman in the army of the United States during

the late war, his good sense, affable manners, and amiable disposition, added to the strictest integrity in public as well as private life, rendered his character in the highest degree respectable, and his death a public misfortune, as well as a most distressing loss to an amiable, disconsolate wife and two lovely infants." Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Richard Sill*

BENJAMIN WELLES,

*Commissary and Surgeon, Connecticut.*

Dr. Welles, the son of Rev. Dr. Noah Welles, of the class of 1741, was born at Stamford, November 22, 1756. The State records show that on June 10, 1777, he was appointed Issuing Commissary of Supplies for the Connecticut Continental troops. Studying medicine he appears also to have served as Surgeon at a later period of the war. Subsequently he settled in the practice of his profession at Wayne, N. Y., and again at Kinderhook, where he died April 19, 1813.

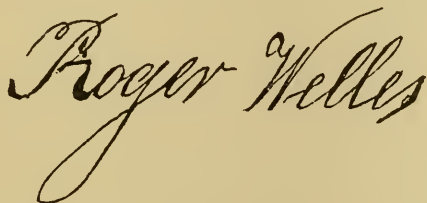
ROGER WELLES,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

An active light-infantry officer of the Connecticut Line. He was a descendant of Thomas Welles, one of the early governors of the Colony; born at Wethersfield, December 29, 1753. Teaching school until the close of 1776, he joined the army as Lieutenant of Col. S. B. Webb's "additional" Continental Regiment, with commission dating January 1, 1777. During the summer and fall of that year he served under Putnam along the Hudson, and in the first part of the following year assisted in the construction of the works at West Point. May 16, 1778, he was promoted First Lieutenant, and as such was doubtless at the battle of Rhode Island on August 29th. He was Lieutenant at one time in Capt. J. Walker's and again in Wooster's company, both graduates. His classmate, Major Huntington, commanded the regiment most of the time in that department. During the cold winter of 1779-80 he encamped with the army at Morristown, his regiment then being in Stark's brigade, which in June following

took part in the action near Springfield, N. J., under Gen. Greene. When Lafayette's Light Infantry Corps was organized for that year, Welles was assigned with Capt. Wyllys, class of 1773, to one of the Connecticut companies. Meanwhile he was promoted Captain, to rank from April 9, 1780, and when Lafayette marched to Virginia with a Light Corps in February, 1781, the Captain was again detached to serve with him, with Wyllys this time as the Major of his battalion. Under Lafayette he experienced all the fatigues, hardships, and excitements of his famous campaign against Cornwallis, and shared in the final success at Yorktown. Extracts from some of the Captain's letters from Virginia appear on pages 133-42. At the siege of Yorktown his battalion, under Col. Gimat and Major Wyllys, stormed one of the enemy's forts on the night of October 14th, and thereby hastened the surrender of Cornwallis. Welles, who was an officer of fine presence, being six feet two inches tall, was among the first to enter the fort. Returning to the Hudson camps, the Captain was for the third time assigned to the Light Corps, which in 1782 was commanded by his own Colonel, Samuel B. Webb. He continued in the army until November, 1783, when he retired with Col. Swift's, or the last Connecticut regiment in the service.

After the war he settled at Newington, and represented the town in the Assembly every year from 1790 until his death on May 27, 1795. He was at the time Brig.-General of the Seventh Brigade of the State Militia. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.



ELISHA SCOTT WILLIAMS,

*Land and Naval Service.*

Afterwards a Baptist minister; born, probably, at East Hartford, Conn., October 7, 1757. In a notice of him as being the oldest living graduate of the college at the time, the *Yale Literary*

*Magazine* for August, 1844, says: "There was no public commencement at his graduation on account of the war. He was in the battle of Trenton; afterwards going to sea, was in an action with the British ship *Levant*, of thirty-two guns, in which the captain of the American ship was killed." The American vessel was the *General Hancock*, a private armed cruiser from Boston, commanded by Capt. Hardy. After a close engagement which occurred September 19, 1778, the *Levant* was blown up.

The above is the only record that can be found respecting Mr. Williams. Studying for the ministry, he preached first in Maine, and from 1803 to 1812. at Beverly, Mass. He died at the latter place February 3, 1845.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1776.*

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ELEAZAR WILLIAMS HOWE,

*Connecticut Service.*

Of Killingly, Conn. We have the brief reference here that immediately after graduation Howe went into the army with Lieut.-Col. Experience Storrs' regiment, and "died within a month." In that case he was with the main army in the vicinity of White Plains after the loss of New York, and probably died in October-November, 1776. The regiment was the Fifth Militia, and had been ordered into the field for two or three months' service in the fall of that year.

DANIEL LYMAN,

*Major and A.D.C., Continental Army.*

Afterwards Chief-Justice of Rhode Island; born at Durham, Conn., January 27, 1756. In the history of that town he is said to have been one of the students who left college upon the Lexington alarm and went to the Boston camps. It is also stated that he accompanied Arnold to Ticonderoga, and was at the capture of that place in May, 1775. Returning to his studies, he graduated with his class, and very soon after appears in Washington's army in the position of Brigade-Major of Fellows' Massachusetts

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Noble Everett, of this class, is said to have served as Chaplain.—Hist. of Winchester, Conn.

State Brigade, appointment dating October 17, 1776. He was present at the battle of White Plains, and thereafter continued in the service to the close of the war. Upon the organization of the Continental Line he joined Col. W. R. Lee's "additional" regiment, raised in Massachusetts, with the rank of Captain, commission dating January 1, 1777. The regiment was largely recruited from Boston, where the Captain remained for over a year. Gen. Heath at that time commanded the district, and on April 2, 1778, he appointed Lyman "Town Major" of the city, his duties corresponding somewhat to those of Provost Marshal. On May 9th following, the General invited him to become a member of his staff with the rank of Brevet-Major, a position which Lyman accepted and retained throughout the contest. During the operations in Rhode Island in the following summer, 1778, he acted as volunteer aid upon the staff of Gen. Sullivan, and as such wrote frequent letters to Heath at Boston, giving details of the operations. He appears to have gone to Rhode Island at the request of the latter General. In the summer of 1779 Heath returned to Washington's army in the Highlands, and assumed command of the Massachusetts and Connecticut divisions on the east side of the river above Peekskill, Lyman being with him. The following winter he again spent in Boston, and in the summer, 1780, he accompanied Heath to Rhode Island, where they met the French officers upon their arrival with the French contingent. Upon the discovery of Arnold's treachery in September, Washington requested Heath to repair immediately to the army, and from that time he remained with it until June, 1783, when the General and his Aids retired from the service.

After the war Major Lyman settled as a lawyer at Newport, became Judge of the Superior Court and then Chief-Justice. In May, 1790, Washington appointed him Surveyor of Newport, but he was removed by the next administration. Respecting this change the Connecticut *Courant* has the following item in the issue for March 2, 1802: "The office of Surveyor and Inspector for the port of Newport, which was conferred on Major Daniel Lyman by President Washington, as a mark of the nation's favor for *his services in her cause*, has been taken from him and presented to Mr. John Slocum, of Newport, as a reward for *his services in the cause of Mr. Jefferson*." The Major died at North Providence,



where he lived later in life, October 16, 1830. Member Rhode Island Cincinnati Society, of which he was President in 1818.



WILLIAM LYMAN,

*Massachusetts Service.*

In a sketch of General Lyman, printed in the History of Durham, Conn., it is stated that he "served through the Revolution." His name, however, does not appear on Continental rolls during the last half of the war. He was probably the William Lyman who served with militia regiments at different times. There is such a name on the list of officers of Col. Dike's command, which was in Rhode Island with Gen. Sullivan in August-September, 1778.

Lyman was born at Northampton, Mass., December 7, 1755. During Shay's rebellion he was Aid to Gen. Shepard, with rank of Major, and from 1796 to 1800 was Brigadier-General of State Militia. He became a member of Congress and subsequently received the appointment of Consul-General of the United States at London, where he died, September 2, 1811. He was buried at Gloucester Cathedral, and afterwards his friends erected a monument to his memory in the old cemetery at Northampton, Mass.

SAMUEL MILLS,

*Lieutenant, Continental Dragoons.*

Afterwards Rev. Samuel Mills, of Chester, Conn.; born in the town of Canton, 1753. Joining the army as Quartermaster-Sergeant of the Second Regiment Light Dragoons, under Col. Sheldon, January 12, 1777, Mr. Mills engaged in the Pennsylvania campaign in the fall of the year, and was doubtless present at the battle of Germantown. Two months later, on the night of December 14, 1777, he was taken prisoner while on duty, with a captain and twenty men of his regiment, "near Vandeering's Mills on the ridge road running by the Schuylkill to Philadelphia." The party was surprised and five of them captured, "whose names," says the captain in his account of the affair, "are,

for the satisfaction of any concerned, Quartermaster Samuel Mills, Isaac Brown, John Chauncey, Ephraim Kirby, and Naboth Lewis." They were disarmed, plundered of their spurs, watches, and valuables, and then ordered to be killed. "Notwithstanding the entreaties and prayers of the unfortunate prisoners for mercy," continues the captain, "the soldiers fell upon them (the officers setting the example), and after cutting, hacking, and stabbing them till they supposed they were dead, they left them (Brown excepted, whom after most cruelly mangling they shot), setting fire to the barn to consume any one who might be in it. Mr. Mills, after being wounded in several places in the head, had his life spared and is now a prisoner. Brown and Chauncey are dead. Kirby and Lewis have been properly taken care of and I trust will recover."—*Conn. Gazette*, January 16, 1778. Mills was confined in Philadelphia a few months and then removed to New Lots, near Brooklyn, L. I., where he remained until exchanged in 1780. While a prisoner he was promoted to a lieutenantcy in the Dragoons, June 2, 1778, but upon his exchange, resigned, October 8, 1780.

After the war Lieut. Mills studied for the ministry, and in 1786 became pastor of the Fourth Congregational Church of Saybrook, now in Chester, where he died February 17, 1814. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

HEATHCOTE MUIRSON,

*Volunteer.*

Member of a prominent loyalist family of Setauket, L. I. The father, Dr. George Muirson, was a physician of some distinction, but on account of his sentiments the Legislature of New York, during the war, attainted his person and confiscated his estates. He left the country, but subsequently returned and died at New Haven, Conn., February 20, 1786. A son, Sylvester, brother of Heathcote, class of 1771, was also a loyalist.

Heathcote Muirson espoused the Revolutionary cause and sacrificed his life in it. During hostilities he lived in Connecticut and served on expeditions as a volunteer. In particular, he took part in Maj. Tallmadge's attack on Fort George, L. I., November 22, 1780, and acquitted himself so well that the Major mentioned him honorably to Washington, who in reply approved of the for-

mer's recommendation that Muirson be appointed to the first vacancy among the officers of the Second Light Dragoons.

On July 12th of the following year, 1781, he engaged in another attack, this time against Lloyd's Neck, L. I. The enterprise was conducted under the protection of two or three French ships. It is stated that Muirson went along as a guide and volunteer, and that while he was reconnoitring the Tory fort at that point his arm was carried away by a cannon-shot. Whatever the particular service he was engaged in, he was mortally wounded on the occasion and died soon after. As to his burial-place, tradition has it that he was taken by the French to Newport and buried there, which is not improbable.

JOEL NORTHROP,

*Surgeon's Mate, Connecticut.*

Younger brother of Lieutenant Amos Northrop, class of 1762; born at New Milford, Conn., July 27, 1753. Studying medicine, he acted as Surgeon's Mate at the Military Hospital at Danbury for a time. In 1779 he removed to New Haven to practise his profession, and died there February 9, 1807. A biographical sketch of him appears in Vol. II., New Haven Historical Society Publications.

NATHAN PRESTON,

*Commissary, Connecticut.*

A native of Woodbury, Conn., where he was born April 20, 1756. On June 4, 1777, the State Council appointed him Commissary of Issues for the Connecticut Continental troops, a position which he appears to have held for some time. After the war he attained considerable prominence as a lawyer, held offices, and became a judge. His death occurred September 20, 1822.

AUGUSTINE TAYLOR,

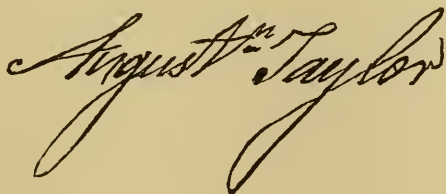
*Lieutenant and Paymaster, Continental Army.*

Son of Rev. Nathaniel Taylor, class of 1745, who is spoken of in Sprague's "Annals of the Pulpit" as "a zealous advocate of the American Revolution." "One of the ways in which he evinced this was by remitting to his people, during the contest, an entire year's salary. This fact the parish records show, under his hand, bearing date April, 1779."

Augustine Taylor was born at New Milford, Conn., November

28, 1755. He joined the Connecticut Continental Line as Second Lieutenant or Ensign of the Seventh Regiment, under Col. Heman Swift, commission dated January 1, 1777. The regiment went into camp at Peekskill on the Hudson, and in September joined Washington's army in Pennsylvania, taking part in the battle of Germantown, October 4th. Doubtless Lieut. Taylor was there, as he was at Valley Forge during the following winter, 1777-78. He was also present at the battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, where he suffered some permanent injury to his eyesight. A month later, July 26th, he was appointed Paymaster of his regiment, and on June 20, 1779, received promotion to a first lieutenancy. During the following winter, 1779-80, the regiment encamped with the army at the Morristown huts, and thereafter was generally stationed with the Connecticut Line in the Highlands. Lieut. Taylor remained with it until his resignation June 25, 1781.

Returning to New Milford, he became an influential resident, and in 1812 was appointed Major-General of State Militia, with the command of the posts at New Haven and New London. Not being in good health at the time, his exertions led to brain affection, which terminated in his decease February 10, 1816. He is described as a martial and "elegant-looking man." May 5, 1782, he married Huldah Canfield, daughter of Col. Samuel Canfield, of New Milford, who survived her husband about thirty years. The General was the uncle of Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Taylor, class of 1807, the New Haven theologian.



JAMES WATSON,

*Captain, Continental Army.*

Afterwards United States Senator from New York; born at Woodbury, now Bethlehem, Conn., April 6, 1750. He descended from John Watson, an early settler of Hartford, and was one of four brothers who served in the Revolutionary army. Of these one died in camp, another was severely wounded, and the third became a Captain in the Continental Line.

At the close of his Senior year, Watson received the appointment of Lieutenant in Col. P. B. Bradley's State Regiment, with commission dated June 10, 1776, and served until the end of the year in the campaign around New York. His regiment was generally stationed on the Jersey side, along Bergen Heights, and at the loss of Fort Washington in November suffered heavily in prisoners. Returning to Connecticut, he joined Col. Samuel B. Webb's "additional" Continental Regiment, with the rank of Captain, to date from January 1, 1777. The regiment went into camp at Peekskill on the Hudson, but some disagreement arising in regard to the seniority of the captains, Watson retired about July 15th. In a letter of that date written from camp, he refers to his claims as based upon "former services." Later in the war, April, 1780, he was appointed Purchasing Commissary for the Connecticut Line, and appears to have continued in that position for some time. Referring to this, a writer from Hartford says: "Our Assembly have adopted the plan of Congress on finance. They have also taken up the supplies for the army, and appointed Col. Champion for the purchase of cattle, pork, flour, etc., and Capt. Watson for the purchase of rum and hay. . . . Tomorrow the Captain begins his purchases, and you may be sure he will succeed."

Removing to New York City after the war, Captain Watson became a successful merchant and prominent citizen. He was appointed Naval Officer, went to the Assembly several sessions, and was elected Speaker, served two terms, 1796-98, as State Senator, and was then elected United States Senator. This last position he retained about two years, resigning March 19, 1800. He also appears among the Regents of the University of New York after 1795. It was largely under his auspices that the New England Society in New York was organized. His death occurred at his residence, No. 6 State Street, on May 15, 1806. Member Connecticut and New York Cincinnati Societies.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Rev. Ashbel Baldwin, of this class, a native of Litchfield, Conn., is stated to have been an officer in the Revolutionary War. He became a well-known Episcopalian clergyman, settled first at Stratford, Conn., and later at Rochester, N. Y.



## Roll of Honor.

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### *Class of 1777.*

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EBENEZER BALLANTINE,

*Surgeon's Mate, Continental Army.*

Dr. Ballantine was born July 14, 1756, at Westfield, Mass., where his father, Rev. John Ballantine, who graduated at Harvard in 1735, was long the settled Congregational pastor. After studying surgery and medicine he entered the service as Surgeon's Mate of Col. Thomas Nixon's Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment, May 20, 1780, and remained with it to the close of the war. His regiment belonged to the main army on the Hudson, and was at times stationed at West Point. Joel Barlow, class of 1778, was the Chaplain of his brigade, and John Porter, class of 1770, Major of the regiment. After the war Ballantine continued his medical studies, and settled as a physician at Schodach Landing, N. Y., where he practised with much success. In 1822 he removed to Marion, Ohio, and died there in the following year, 1823. Member Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

*Eben<sup>r</sup> Ballantine*

JOHN BARKER,

*Lieutenant, Continental Army.*

Born at Lebanon, Conn., 1757. With his classmates, Cogswell and Selden, he joined Col. Henry Jackson's Massachusetts Continental Regiment, to rank as Lieutenant from January 1, 1777. He joined Washington's army in Pennsylvania some time after the battle of Germantown, and wintered at or near Valley Forge. At Monmouth, June, 1778, his regiment was closely engaged, and soon after marched to Rhode Island, and fought in the battle of August 29th. On this occasion it was complimented on its good conduct. Lieut. Chipman speaks of meeting his classmates, Barker, Cogswell, and Selden, at Stamford as they were on the march to Rhode Island. Lieut. Barker continued in the service until about March 1, 1779, when he resigned. After the war he settled as a physician at New Haven, where he died February 24, 1813.

NATHANIEL CHIPMAN,

*Lieutenant, Continental Army.*

Afterwards United States Senator from Vermont; born at Salisbury, Conn., November 15, 1752. He was commissioned January 1, 1777, Ensign in the Second Connecticut Continental Line, Col. Charles Webb, and late in the year joined Washington's army in Pennsylvania, where in December he engaged in the sharp skirmish of White Marsh. That winter the regiment encamped at Valley Forge, where he was promoted First Lieutenant December 29, 1777, and in June, 1778, he was present at the battle of Monmouth. The army then encamped at White Plains, where Lieut. Chipman resigned his commission October 16, 1778. Extracts from one of his letters from Valley Forge, and also from some of his poetic efforts, appear on pages 11, 85, 86.

Upon leaving the army Chipman studied law, and in the spring of 1779 removed to Tinmouth, Vt., to practise. There he rapidly rose to distinction, and filled high offices. He became United States District Judge, Chief-Justice of the State Supreme Court, and for six years after 1798 was United States Senator. In 1816 he was appointed Professor of Law in Middlebury College. His death occurred at Tinmouth February 13, 1843.



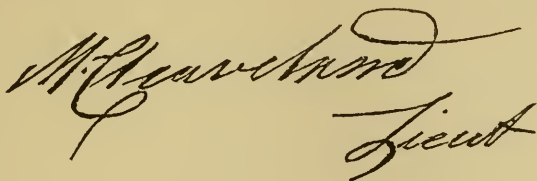
MOSES CLEAVELAND,

*Captain-Lieutenant, Continental Sappers and Miners.*

Of Canterbury, Windham County, Conn., where he was born January 29, 1754. Like a number of other students of his own and other classes, he entered the service before his Senior year closed, and without loss of his graduation degree. He joined the Second Connecticut Continental Regiment, Col. Charles Webb, as Ensign, to rank from January 1, 1777. During the Burgoyne campaign he served under Putnam on the Hudson below Albany, and late in the fall of the year was ordered to Washington's army in Pennsylvania. His regiment took part in the sharp affair of White Marsh in December, 1777, and soon after, on the 25th of the month, Cleaveland was promoted First

Lieutenant. His regiment then went into camp at Valley Forge, and in June, 1778, was present at the battle of Monmouth. In the summer of the following year he was transferred from his command, and received further promotion as indicated in the following order dated Headquarters in the Highlands, August 31, 1779: ". . . Lieut. Cleaveland is appointed Capt.-Lieut. in the corps of Sappers and Miners *vice* Little, resigned." He joined the corps September 1st, with commission dated August 2, 1779. With this he continued about two years, and then resigned June 7, 1781.

Returning to Canterbury, Captain Cleaveland practised law, became a member of the Assembly, and Brigadier-General of Militia. In 1796 he was appointed superintendent of the Connecticut Land Company, which had purchased the "Western Reserve" in Ohio, and early in October of that year the survey of the site of the present city of Cleveland was completed. The place was named in his honor. The General then returned home, and died there November 16, 1806. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. Cleaveland" on the top line and "Lieut" on the bottom line.

SAMUEL COGSWELL,

*Lieutenant, Continental Army.*

Son of the Rev. Dr. James Cogswell, of Scotland Parish, Conn., and brother of Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell, noted early in the present century as a physician at Hartford, both graduates of the college. Samuel was born May 23, 1754. He first appears in the service, with commission dated July 1, 1777, as First Lieutenant in Col. H. Jackson's "additional," afterwards Sixteenth and Ninth Massachusetts Continental Regiment, which wintered at and near Valley Forge in 1777-78. The regiment was closely engaged at Monmouth in June following, and again in the battle of Rhode Island August 29th. In that State it remained for over

a year, being posted at camps "Graves Hill," "Newtown," "Kingston," etc. It started to relieve the Penobscot expedition in August, 1779, but returned, and after a brief stay at Castle Hill, Boston harbor, it again marched to Washington's army, and wintered at the Morristown huts, 1779-80. In June, 1780, it was engaged at the battle of Springfield, N. J., and then marched with the army to the Highlands. In July, 1781, Cogswell appears as Adjutant of detached companies at West Point, and by McDougall's garrison orders of September 4th he was appointed Brigade-Major of a temporary brigade under Col. M. Jackson. Late in the following year, November 12, 1782, he was appointed Deputy Judge-Advocate, and held the office for several months. By consolidation of regiments he was transferred from the Ninth to the Seventh, and on June 16, 1783, was assigned to the Fourth, with which he remained till the final discharge of his brigade toward the close of the year. He may have been present at the evacuation of New York, November 25, 1783. On his way home he stopped at Stamford to visit his brother, Surgeon James Cogswell, who on December 19th wrote to his father as follows :

"This will be delivered by my brother Samuel, whose company we have been favored with some time. It must be very pleasing to you to see him again after so long absence, returning from the dangers that attend a military life, unsullied with the vices that accompany it, and as one who has had a share in the arduous task of successfully opposing one of the most potent nations in the world, and in procuring peace and independence. For my own part, I view him with a kind of respect, mixed with fraternal affection, gratitude, and love."

After the war Cogswell went into business with his classmate Selden at Lansingburgh, above Troy, N. Y. He was killed while out hunting, August 20, 1790, by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of one of the party. His widow married his classmate, Ebenezer Fitch, afterwards first president of Williams College. Some of his war letters appear in the Cogswell genealogy. Member Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

*Sam. Cogswell*

ELI CURTISS,

*Lieutenant, Continental Army.*

A native of Plymouth, Conn. After the war he practised law at Watertown, and was the first member of the profession to settle there. According to a memorial, signed by himself, on file in the Hartford *Archives*, he joined the Eighth Connecticut Continental Line—Col. Chandler's—as Sergeant-Major, April 10, 1777. He served with it at Germantown, Valley Forge, and Monmouth. On November 17, 1777, he was promoted Ensign, and at Valley Forge he was again promoted Lieutenant, April 21, 1778. This rank he held until December 4, 1779, when he resigned. He is said to have lost an arm in the service, but he makes no mention of this in the memorial referred to. His death occurred at Bristol, Conn., December 13, 1821.

JAMES DAVENPORT,

*Commissary of Supplies, Connecticut.*

Fourth son of Hon. Abraham Davenport, class of 1732, and brother of Maj. John Davenport, class of 1770; born at Stamford, Conn., October 12, 1758. Towards the close of his Senior year, or May 30, 1777, young Davenport was appointed by Gov. Trumbull and his Council, an "Issuing Commissary of Supplies for the Connecticut troops in Continental service." In this capacity, with the rank of Major, he made himself useful both in and out of the State. The details of his service are meagre, but it was probably of the same character as that of Commissary Flint, of the class of 1773. One item is preserved in the following note he received from Gen. Greene, then Quartermaster-General of Washington's Army, dated Camp near Fredericksburg, N. Y., November 9, 1778: "SIR—With this you will receive an appointment as deputy quartermaster-general for the special purpose of providing for and conducting the British prisoners, lately commanded by General Burgoyne, and the guards attending them, from New England to Virginia."

Inheriting his father's talents and spirit, Major Davenport afterwards became prominent in civil life, serving in both houses of the Connecticut Legislature, acting as Judge of Common Pleas, and elected to the House of Representatives in 1796. He was



also a member of the Commission in 1789 to make a treaty with the Wyandot and other Indians for the purchase of the Connecticut Western Reserve Dr. Dwight says of him : " His life was without a stain ; and in his integrity, candor, and justice his countrymen placed an absolute reliance. With these qualifications, it will not be a matter of wonder that at an early period of his life he was employed by the public in an almost continued succession of public business : or that he executed every commission of this nature honorably to himself and usefully to his country." He died August 3, 1797. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

JOHN DE PEYSTER DOUW,

*Commissary, New York.*

A native of Albany, N. Y., where he was born January 25, 1756. In his obituary notice he is mentioned as having been " an officer in the Commissary Department of the Army in the campaign of 1777 against Burgoyne." He used to speak, in his lifetime, of the skirmish of Moses Creek, near Saratoga, in which he took part. Mr. Duow lived to an advanced age, filled offices of trust, and was universally respected. His death occurred at Albany, February 22, 1835.

WILLIAM EDMOND,

*Volunteer.*

Afterwards Judge Edmond, of the Supreme Court of Connecticut ; born in Woodbury, now South Britain, September 28, 1755. His only military service was rendered incidentally, but with spirit, on the occasion of Tryon's raid to Danbury, in the spring of 1777. He appears to have been at home at the time. Hearing of the enemy's approach, he hurried forward and joined in the running fight of April 27th, during which he fell severely wounded. Defending himself bravely, he escaped capture, but was obliged to remain helpless in the field all the following night. Respecting the wound, from which he suffered until 1781, he says in his journal : " The thigh bone near the knee-joint was entirely broken off in two places about three inches apart, the intermediate bone divided or split lengthwise in three pieces. Three pieces were extracted, together with about one third of an ounce ball, which

was wedged between them. These pieces the doctor retained as a trophy of his surgical skill."

Studying law, Edmond settled in Newtown, Conn., and opened an office in the house of Gen. John Chandler, whose daughter Elizabeth he afterwards married. In 1797 he was elected Member of Congress, serving two terms, and then appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, which position he retained until 1819. He died at Newtown, August 1, 1838. A full and appreciative sketch of Judge Edmond may be found in Cothren's "Ancient Woodbury," Vol. I., p. 434, from the pen of the late Gov. Henry Dutton, of New Haven (V. C., 1818).

SAMUEL HOPKINS,

*Volunteer Surgeon, Naval Service.*

A native of Hadley, Mass.; born October 31, 1756. He settled as a physician at Newbury, Vt., but in 1782, as we have the record, he sailed as Surgeon of a "Letter of Marque" bound to the West Indies and Holland. While at Martinique he died of yellow fever July 11, 1782. His service was incidental, as he seems to have intended to leave the vessel on its arrival in Holland and continue his medical studies abroad.

SOLOMON PINTO,

*Ensign, Continental Army.*

Born at New Haven, and one of three brothers, Abraham, Solomon, and William, who entered Yale. Abraham did not graduate, possibly because he was wounded at the time New Haven was invaded by Tryon. Solomon with the others turned out as a volunteer on the occasion, and a family tradition is to the effect that he was taken prisoner and sent to England. However this may be, he was at New Haven in the following year, when he joined Washington's army.

According to the Cincinnati records, his service began March 18, 1780, as Ensign in the Seventh Connecticut Line, Col. Heman Swift. He seems, however, not to have been formally assigned to duty by division orders until October 17th, following. (See sketch of Eb. Daggett, class of 1778.) The army was then in the Highlands. A year later young Pinto was detached to take part in Tallmadge's expedition against Fort Slongo, L. I., which

was skilfully surprised and carried on October 10, 1781. He retired from the service at the general disbandment in June, 1783. He died in 1824. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Solomon Pinto*

WILLIAM PINTO,

*Volunteer.*

Native of New Haven, and brother of preceding. At the time of Tryon's invasion of New Haven, July 5, 1779, young Pinto served with his brothers as a volunteer. When his brother Abraham was wounded, as stated above, he took him on his horse and carried him out of danger. Later in the war he was on duty at Fort Trumbull, New London Harbor, and upon the landing of Arnold's expedition on the morning of September 6, 1781, was despatched with the news to Gov. Trumbull. In after life he became an extensive West India merchant, and lived to an advanced age. His death occurred at New Orleans in 1847.

CHARLES SELDEN,

*Adjutant, Continental Army.*

Fourth son of Col. Samuel Selden, of Hadlyme, Conn., who died a prisoner of war in New York in October, 1776. His descent from Thomas Selden, one of the first settlers of Hartford, is noticed in the sketch of his cousin, Capt. Ezra Selden, class of 1773.

Charles Selden was born at Hadlyme, November 23, 1755. With his classmates, Barker and Cogswell, he joined Col. Henry Jackson's "additional" Continental Regiment, which subsequently became the Sixteenth, and again, by consolidation, the Ninth, Sixth, and Fourth of the Massachusetts Line. It was recruited mainly in Boston and marched to the field in the latter part of September, 1777. Selden was commissioned Second Lieutenant, to rank from July 1st of that year. The regiment joined Washington's army, then in Pennsylvania, and during the following winter and spring it was encamped at Valley Forge and vicinity. Upon the abandonment of Philadelphia by the enemy in June, 1778, the regiment was ordered forward to guard the city, but in

a few days joined the army, which had moved out from Valley Forge, and took an active part in the battle of Monmouth on the 28th. It was closely engaged, as appears from the evidence at Lee's trial, and no doubt Selden was with it at the time, as we find him on the march soon after to Rhode Island, where he was again in the thick of battle on August 29th, under Sullivan and Lafayette. Remaining in Rhode Island for about a year, the regiment, in August, 1779, hurried to the relief of the ill-fated Penobscot expedition, but, returning, encamped for a short time on Castle Island, Boston harbor, and then joined Washington's army in New Jersey. During the winter of 1779-80 it encamped at the Morristown huts. Meantime Selden was promoted First Lieutenant, March 15, 1779, and from December of that year until September, 1780, was Acting-Adjutant of the regiment. In June, 1780, he engaged in the battle of Springfield, N. J., and thereafter served to the close of the war with the main army in the Highlands. On May 31, 1782, while encamped at the "New Boston" huts, near West Point, he received further promotion, as appears from the following note of that date :

" SIR :—I request that Lt. *Chas. Selden*, of the 9th Mass. Regiment, may be appointed (in orders this day) Adjutant of said Regt. vice Capt.-Lt. Clap promoted, to be obeyed and respected accordingly.

" I am, etc.,

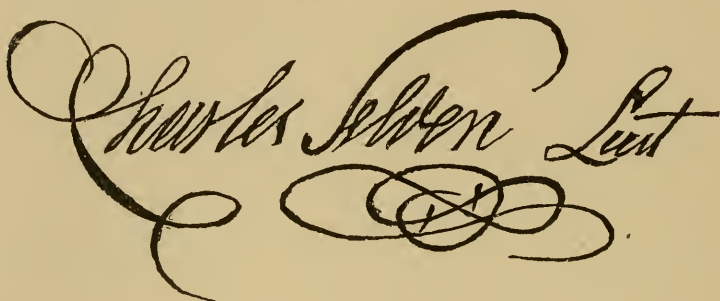
" HENRY JACKSON,

" To Gen. HEATH.

Col. 9th Massachusetts."

During 1782-83 Jackson's regiment was encamped at Verplanck's Point, Newburgh, West Point, and other places on the Hudson. When the Massachusetts Line was finally reduced to four regiments in the summer of 1783, the Ninth became the Fourth, and on June 16th Selden was reappointed Adjutant. With this he remained until the close of the year. The Fourth Regiment formed part of the force that occupied New York City upon its evacuation by the enemy, but Selden's order-book indicates that he had lately received a furlough and was absent. His long and active services, however, were not at an end, for upon the organization of a new regiment to serve from January 1 to July 1, 1784, to guard West Point, Selden again accepted the Adjutancy, and remained with the command until its muster out as the last infantry corps of the old Revolutionary army.

Soon after leaving the service, or in the fall of 1784, Selden went into business with his classmate, Cogswell, at Lansingburgh, above Troy, N. Y. (firm name, "Cogswell & Selden"), and became prosperous and influential. In 1803 he was appointed one of the Regents of the University of New York, in 1804 went to the Assembly, and from 1808 to 1811 sat in the State Senate. He died at Troy, January 1, 1820. Member of Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.



THOMAS YOUNG SEYMOUR,

*Captain, Continental Dragoons.*

Eldest son of Col. Thomas Seymour, class of 1755; born at Hartford, June 19, 1757. He was commissioned, January 10, 1777, Lieutenant in the Second Regiment, Continental Light Dragoons, under Col. Sheldon, and soon after entering the field was ordered to report with his troop of horse to Gen. Gates in the Northern Department. That he was active in the campaign against Burgoyne may be inferred from his letter on page 79, written, as he says, "under arms," on the lines "advanced of Stillwater." From papers in the Pension Bureau, it also appears that after the surrender he was detailed to escort Burgoyne to Boston, and that from the captive General he received a saddle and brace of pistols as a token of regard. Trumbull, the painter, introduces Capt. Seymour on horseback in his picture of the surrender. There is also a miniature of him in the Yale Art Gallery, Trumbull collection. He remained in the service about a year longer, resigning November 23, 1778.

After the war Seymour practised law at Hartford, became



Major of the Governor's Foot Guards there, and filled several offices of public and private trust. He died May 16, 1811. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Thos. Seymour*

NATHAN HAYNES WHITING,

*Adjutant, Continental Army.*

Son of Col. Nathan Whiting (Y. C., 1743), of New Haven, and a descendant, upon his mother's side, of John Haynes, first Governor of Connecticut; born at New Haven, November 6, 1759. His father was a distinguished officer of the French war, present at the capture of Louisburg.

Whiting entered the service early in 1780, by joining Col. S. B. Webb's Continental Regiment, then commanded by Lieut.-Col. Huntington—the following letter best explaining his first connection with it:

"CAMP STEEN RAPPIE, 7th Sept., 1780,  
"5 miles North from Hackinsack.

"SIR:

"I would beg Liberty to recommend Mr. Nathan Haines Whiting for an Ensigncy in the 9th Connecticut Regiment—he is a young Gentleman of family & Education, & hath serv'd some time as a Volunteer in the Regt. His Ensigncy to bear date from the 9th day of April last. The small number of officers in the Regiment makes it necessary that his appointment should be made as soon as Possible, as your Excellency will see by the enclos'd Return of officers.

"I am, with the Greatest Respect and Esteem,

"Your Excellency's Most Ob<sup>d</sup> and very Humble Servant,

"EBEN. HUNTINGTON,

"Lieut.-Col. Com<sup>d</sup>s. 9th Conn. Regt.

"His Excellency, Gov. TRUMBULL."

Whiting received this appointment, and on February 10, 1781, was again promoted as Lieutenant in Webb's regiment, then the Third Connecticut. In June following he joined Col. Scammell's Light Infantry Corps, with which he marched to Virginia and participated in the capture of Yorktown. While there he acted as Adjutant of Lieut.-Col. Huntington's battalion of Infantry.

Returning to camp in the Highlands, he continued in service until January 1, 1783.

Settling in West Hartford, Whiting practised law, held local office, and served several terms in the Legislature. He died September 16, 1801. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.<sup>1</sup>

*Nathan H. Whiting*

*Class of 1778.*

JOEL BARLOW,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

The well-known early American poet, political writer, and diplomatist ; born at Redding, Connecticut, March 24, 1754. It is said that during his college course, when studies were temporarily suspended in the fall of 1776, he joined Washington's army as a volunteer, and took part in the battle of White Plains, October 28th. After graduation he devoted himself to literature and poetic composition, and gained the favorable notice of such wits and writers of the time as Dwight, Humphreys, Trumbull, and others. It was to Humphreys that Barlow was partly indebted for his appointment as Chaplain in the army, as the following extract of a letter from the former to Gen. Greene goes to show :

"Hartford, May 23, 1780. . . . I cannot but feel myself under great obligations to you for the generous concern you are pleased to take in Mr. Barlow's affairs. There is one way in which I think he might be serv'd effectually, and in a manner reputable to himself and beneficial to the Public. I mean by having him appointed a Chaplain to some vacant Brigade : for tho' he is not in orders at present, he would, I am well assured from his character and some other circumstances, qualify himself for the office immediately, accept the appointment with cheerfulness, perform the duty with dignity, and have leisure enough to prosecute his favorite pursuits. The Rhode Island and 4th Mass. Brigades, I am informed, are vacant."

Chaplain Abraham Baldwin, of Parsons' Connecticut Brigade, also interested himself in the matter, and the result was the appointment of Barlow to the chaplaincy of the Fourth Massachu-

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Ives, of this class, afterwards a man of some note in Berkshire Co., Mass., is said to have served short terms during the Revolution.

William Little was possibly the Issuing Commissary of his name from Lebanon, Conn. He was at Valley Forge and other places.

Samuel Morey, of Norton, Mass., is stated to have been Surgeon some time during the war.

setts Brigade, formerly General Learned's, but then commanded by Col. John Bailey. Barlow thus succeeded Chaplain David Avery, class of 1769, who had resigned in March previous. During 1781-82 the brigade was the Third Massachusetts. The young poet rapidly fitted himself for his new position by a partial course in theology, and joined the army on September 2, 1780, near Paramus, N. J. Camp life and associations proved congenial to him, especially as he found much time to indulge his favorite pursuit. He preached once a Sunday, his fourth effort being what he describes as "a flaming political sermon, occasioned by the treachery of Arnold," and which, as he was afterwards informed, did him "great honor." He was invited at an early day to dine with General Greene, who stood high with the army, reputed, as he says, "the second character on the continent." Washington also extended him a similar invitation; and after the occasion he wrote to Miss Ruth Baldwin, the lady to whom he was engaged:

"How do you think I felt when the greatest man on earth placed me at his right hand, with Lord Stirling at his left, at table? I graced the table with a good grace, and felt perfectly easy and happy. There were many gentlemen there. You must allow me a little vanity in these descriptions, because the scenes are new. Since the preaching of my sermon upon the treason of Arnold and the glory of America, several gentlemen who did not hear it, and some who did, have been to read it. They talk of printing it. Colonel Humphreys has made me promise to loan him the plan and the first book of my poems to read at head-quarters. He and many other friends pay me particular attention."

Barlow remained in the army to the close of the war. He thereafter acquired celebrity at home as the author of the "Columbiad," "Hasty Pudding," and other effusions. Still later he went abroad, figured during the French Revolution, and in 1811 was appointed Minister to France by Madison, but did not live to render the diplomatic service to the United States he hoped to. While on a journey to Wilna to meet Napoleon, he died somewhat suddenly at Zarnowicke, near Cracow, Poland, December 24, 1812.<sup>1</sup> Member Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. Barlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

<sup>1</sup> In the recently published "Life and letters of Joel Barlow," by Mr. Chas. Burr Todd, will be found a number of interesting and valuable letters written both to and by him during the Revolution.

EBENEZER DAGGETT,

*Ensign, Continental Army.*

Youngest son of President Daggett, and brother of Lieut. Henry Daggett, class of 1775. He was appointed, July 26, 1780, Ensign in the Seventh Connecticut Line, and formally assigned to duty in division orders as follows: "Totoway, Oct. 17, 1780. Messrs. Ebenezer Dagget and Solomon Pinto (Y. C., 1777), having been appointed Ensigns in the 7th Regt. by the Governor and Council of the State of Connecticut, they are to do duty and to be obey'd and respected accordingly." Early in February, 1781, he was detached to serve in Colonel Gimat's Light Infantry Battalion, and under Lafayette experienced the hardships and successes of his Virginia campaign against Cornwallis. He was doubtless in the affair of Green Spring in July of that year, and through all the operations of the siege and victory of Yorktown. Unhappily he was attacked by the small-pox, and died at the Head of Elk, Maryland, on the way home, November 20, 1781.

*Ebenezer Daggett Ensign*

FREDERICK WILLIAM HOTCHKISS,

*Volunteer.*

Son of John Hotchkiss, class of 1748, who was killed during Tryon's New Haven raid. The college record states that he acted as aid to the officer commanding the New Haven militia (probably Col. Sabin) on the same occasion, July 5, 1779. Two of his uncles, as well as his father, were killed on that day. Mr. Hotchkiss was afterwards long pastor at Saybrook, Conn. He died March 31, 1844.

NATHAN LEAVENWORTH,

*Surgeon's Mate, Continental Army.*

Youngest of the Leavenworth brothers who entered the Revolutionary service (see Jesse Leavenworth, class of 1759); born at Waterbury, Conn., December 11, 1761. Studying medicine after graduation, he joined the Eighth Massachusetts Continental Regiment, Col. M. Jackson, as Surgeon's Mate, with commission dated February 1, 1780. He retained this position until the last of the army was disbanded, in December, 1783, and was then reappointed

in the new American Regiment, which continued in service at West Point until July, 1784. His regiment belonged to Washington's main army on the Hudson. In the fall of 1784 he went to the Cheraw District, S. C., but returned to Waterbury in 1793, and died there January 9, 1799. Member Massachusetts Cincinnati Society.

*Nathan Leavenworth*

NOAH WEBSTER,

*Volunteer.*

Young Webster, the future lexicographer, was one of the many volunteers who fell into line with the Connecticut militia ordered, in August and September, 1777, to reinforce Putnam on the Hudson or Gates at Saratoga during the Burgoyne campaign. His father and two brothers were in the service at the time. The regiment Webster marched with joined Putnam above Peekskill, and was moving northward with his force when the news of Burgoyne's surrender reached them. The late Prof. Chauncey S. Goodrich mentions this fact in his sketch of Webster in Vol. II. of the *American Literary Magazine*, and adds: "They were met by a courier waving his sword in triumph and crying out as he passed, 'Burgoyne is taken! Burgoyne is taken!' It was perhaps the most eventful crisis of the war. An army of British regulars had for the first time surrendered to a body of undisciplined Continental troops, and well might every American who had shared in the conflict, or who was hastening to meet its foe, exult in such a victory. Mr. Webster, even in old age, could never speak of it, or of his feelings as the shout of the courier rang through the ranks of the regiment, without a strength of emotion which was often expressed by tears." Webster's own reference to this service appears on p. 77, and on p. 13 may be found an interesting extract from one of his early addresses, describing Washington's first visit to Yale and his reception by the students. Born at Hartford, October 16, 1758; died at New Haven, May 28, 1843.

*Noah Webster.*  
*ooooo*



OLIVER WOLCOTT, JR.,

*Volunteer.*

Afterwards Secretary of the Treasury under Washington and Governor of Connecticut. Son of General and Governor Oliver Wolcott, class of 1747; born at Litchfield, January 11, 1760. Like young Edmond of the previous class, he turned out as a volunteer on the occasion of Tryon's Danbury raid in April, 1777, and took part in the movements with the militia. In the summer of 1779 he acted as Aide-de-Camp to his father, who then commanded on the western border of the State, and at a later period was appointed a State Commissary. On July 20, 1779, Gen. Parsons invited him to join the Continental army, as appears from the following note of that date to Gen. Wolcott: "In arranging our Line, a number of Ensigns are vacant. If your Son is willing to accept one of these vacancies, I shall be happy in having it in my power to gratify the inclination of the Son of so worthy a father. I am determined to have these offices filled by young Gentlemen of Spirit and Learning, to make the army respectable, or leave them vacant" (Wolcott "Memorial"). The father replied that he preferred to have his son continue his law studies which he had lately taken up. After his civil career he resided in New York, where he died June 1, 1833.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1779.*

JEREMIAH GATES BRAINARD,

*Ensign, Continental Army.*

Afterwards Judge Brainard, of New London, Conn. He belonged to the family of Brainards (or Brainerds) identified with the settlement of East Haddam, where he was born July 28, 1759. He was appointed, July 26, 1780, Ensign in the Seventh Regiment Connecticut Line, Col. Heman Swift, but did not remain

<sup>1</sup> In his pamphlet on Pittsfield, Mass., Rev. Dr. Field states that Thomas Gold, of this class, was for several months Secretary to Gen. Putnam in 1777. The General then commanded on the east side of the Hudson.

Edmund Foster, of the same class, native of Reading, Mass., is said to have engaged in the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775. He was then a Sophomore, and may have been at home at the time. Afterwards pastor at Littleton, Mass.

in service beyond the month of April, 1781. Rev. Dr. Field states that he was employed on detached duty "principally in attending to the accounts of the Connecticut Line at the War Office in Philadelphia." Returning home, Brainard studied law with Col. Dyar Throop, class of 1759, at East Haddam, and then settled at New London. He was Representative, Mayor of the city, and from 1806 to 1829 Judge of the Superior Court. He died January 7, 1830.

ELIZUR GOODRICH,

*Volunteer.*

Afterwards member of Congress, Judge, and Mayor of New Haven; son of Rev. Dr. E. Goodrich, class of 1752, born at Durham, Conn., March 24, 1761. He took an active part against the enemy when they invaded New Haven on July 5, 1779, turning out with his fellow students and fighting until he was wounded. After the British occupied the town, a soldier entered the house where Goodrich had retired to have his wound dressed and began to abuse him. Notwithstanding his condition, young Goodrich seized the soldier, drove him to the wall, and handled him with such energy and hostile intent that the fellow begged for mercy and went off. Goodrich settled at New Haven as a lawyer, became Judge of the County Court, served as a Representative to Congress from 1799 to 1801, and was Mayor from 1803 to 1822. His account of Tryon's invasion and Pres. Daggett's capture appears in the text with events of 1779-80. He was the father of the late Prof. Chauncey A. Goodrich of Yale College.

WILLIAM SEYMOUR,

*Volunteer.*

Younger brother of Capt. Thomas Y. Seymour, class of 1777; born at Hartford, December 28, 1758. It appears that he was with his uncle, Col. Wm. Ledyard, at the time Arnold attacked New London in September, 1781, and was one of the sufferers of the Fort Griswold "massacre" on the Groton side. While assisting in the defence of the fort he fell terribly wounded. His case was reported upon by a Legislative Pension Committee in January, 1783, as follows: "William Seymour, of Hartford, a volun-

teer in the fort, was wounded by a musket ball which entered into and passed through the joint of the knee, fracturing and breaking the bones in such manner as that the greatest part of the substance of the knee joint separated and issued out. In this condition he, for about three weeks, suffered the most severe pain and distress. When no other means could be thought of to save his life, amputation was performed and his limb taken off about half-way between the knee and body, and after a long, languishing confinement he is restored to a considerable degree of health, though wholly disabled from performing any considerable exercises or following any considerable business." (Allyn's Battle of Groton Heights.) He is also said to have received thirteen bayonet wounds after being shot as described. Although crippled for life, Seymour eventually was able to engage in business in Hartford, and lived to an advanced age. He died, unmarried, at Bloomfield, Conn., December 20, 1843.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1780.*

JOHN BARNETT,

*Brigade Chaplain, Continental Army.*

Rev. Mr. Barnett was Chaplain in the Massachusetts Line for about eight months during the year 1782. He evidently succeeded Rev. Enos Hitchcock, graduate of Harvard, in the chaplaincy of the Second Brigade of that Line, so that all the Massachusetts chaplains were at that time graduates of the college—the other two being Messrs. Barlow and Lockwood. Mr. Barnett is said to have injured his voice permanently by open-air preaching in camp, and thereafter was not a settled pastor for any length of time. From 1790 to 1795 he was at Middlebury, Vt. He was a native of Windsor, Conn.; died at Durham, N. Y., December 5, 1837, aged eighty-four, being at the time a Revolutionary pensioner under the act of 1818.

<sup>1</sup> William Baldwin, of this class, was recommended in July, 1780, by Col. Meigs, of the Sixth Connecticut, for a position as Ensign in his regiment, but he does not appear to have accepted, no such name being on the rolls. Meigs says: "Mr. Baldwin is a young gentleman belonging to Branford, lately graduated from Yale College."

WILLIAM FOWLER,

*Ensign, Continental Army.*

A native of East Haddam, Conn. ; born September 27, 1761 ; the youngest son of Rev. Joseph Fowler, of the class of 1743, Congregational pastor at that place. This branch of Fowlers came of Windham County ancestry.

The Ensign's career was brief—a year's service. He received his appointment February 27, 1781, and was assigned to the Fifth Regiment, Connecticut Line, under Colonel Sherman. The regiment took part in Washington's feint upon New York in the summer of that year, remained on the Hudson under Gen. Heath during the Yorktown campaign, and wintered at camp "Connecticut Village," above Peekskill. There young Fowler was taken sick, and died on or about February 28, 1782. The *Hartford Courant* of March 5th following says of him : "Died of the small-pox, at camp, last week, Ensign William Fowler, of East Haddam. He was a gentleman of a liberal education, and much esteemed by all his acquaintance."

ÆNEAS MUNSON,

*Surgeon's Mate, Continental Army.*

Dr. Munson was the son of Dr. Æneas Munson, of the class of 1753, who for many years in the last and present centuries was a practising physician in New Haven, and President of the Medical Society of Connecticut ; born September 11, 1763. Very soon after graduation, or September 1, 1780, Munson was commissioned Surgeon's Mate in Col. Swift's Seventh Connecticut Continental Line. During the winter of 1780-81 his regiment was hutted with the Connecticut Division on the Hudson, opposite West Point. In June following he was detached to assist Surgeon Thacher, of the Massachusetts Line, in Col. Scammell's Light Infantry corps, which, after engaging in one or two sharp skirmishes in Westchester County, marched in August with the army to Yorktown, Va. There it took a leading part in the siege, and in after life Dr. Munson had many incidents to tell of the operations and surrender. Returning north he rejoined his regiment, which in 1781-82 was the Fourth Connecticut, under Col. Butler, with Dr. Timothy

Hosmer as Chief Surgeon. Remaining in the Highlands, he served until the disbandment in June, 1783.

After the war Dr. Munson practised medicine at New Haven nearly as long as his father, and is remembered by the older residents of the place. He died August 22, 1852. Member Connecticut Cincinnati Society.

*Aeneas Munson*

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TOMLINSON,

*Ensign, Continental Army.*

A native of Stratford, Conn. ; born about 1760. During his Junior year he met with an experience which is said to have decided him to enter the service. The *New Haven Journal* of June 9, 1779, reports it as follows :

"One night last week a party from L. I. landed at Old Mill in Stratford, and plundered the house of Mr. Joseph Lewis of a considerable sum of money, all the clothing, linen, etc., and went off with their booty, taking with them a young man named Tomlinson, a member of Yale College, who was there on a visit."

Tomlinson, who lived to an advanced age, used to recall this incident to residents of Stratford still living. The capture occurred on the night of May 31st, when the party in question took him to a British man-of-war in the Sound, whose captain treated him civilly, but who obliged him to proceed to New York to secure his release or exchange. It was several weeks before he was exchanged, and upon his return he resolved to enter the army. He was appointed Ensign of Col. S. B. Webb's Continental Regiment April 5, 1780, and was one of the officers on guard at Major André's quarters during his captivity and trial. It was to Tomlinson that the unfortunate Major presented the pen-and-ink sketch of himself now preserved in the library of Yale College. The Ensign remained in service until May 1, 1781, when he resigned and returned to Stratford. He died there, a respected citizen, January 14, 1849.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Erastus Pixley, of this class, resident of Great Barrington, Mass., is stated to have been one of the students who volunteered to march against the enemy on July 5, 1779, when New Haven was invaded. He died May 31, 1795.



## *Roll of Honor.*

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### *Class of 1781.*

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SIMEON BALDWIN,

*Volunteer.*

Afterwards Judge Baldwin of the Supreme Court of Connecticut ; also Mayor of New Haven in 1826. He was a brother of Chaplain Ebenezer Baldwin, class of 1763, and was born at Norwich, December 14, 1761. At the time of Tryon's invasion of New Haven, July 5, 1779, he turned out as a volunteer with other students and took part in the day's skirmishing, especially near "Neck Bridge," over Mill River. After the war he settled as a lawyer at New Haven and filled important offices. From 1803 he served one term as a Representative in Congress, and subsequently the positions mentioned above. His death occurred May 26, 1851.

The following graduates rendered service before entering college :

### *Class of 1781.*

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SAMUEL HINCKLEY,

*Massachusetts Service.*

He was a native of North Brookfield, Mass.; born Dec. 22, 1757. Entering the service in 1776, probably with a Massachusetts regiment, he took part in the battle of White Plains, Oct. 28th, of that year, and was wounded. He was a grandson of Gov. Thomas Hinckley, of Massachusetts. For forty-six years he filled the office of Register and Probate Judge ; died at Northampton, June 15, 1840.

### *Class of 1782.*

---

PAYSON WILLISTON,

*Volunteer.*

Son of Rev. Noah Williston, class of 1757. He took part in the skirmishing on July 5, 1779, when New Haven was invaded. Speaking of the day's experiences, he says, in Sprague's "Annals": "It was my lot to mingle in that scene as a member of the Artillery Company who opposed the British who landed on the West side

of New Haven harbour ; and I distinctly remember the President's [Daggett] coming up and addressing to us patriotic and earnest words, bidding us go on and fight, &c. ; and he rushed along himself, and very soon after came near paying for his patriotism with his life. This was a few months before I entered College." Williston studied for the ministry, and was for many years pastor at Easthamptom, Mass., where he died January 30, 1856, in the ninety-third year of his age.

*Class of 1786.*

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WILLIAM STONE,

*Soldier, Continental Army.*

A native of Guilford, Conn. He served three years in the Continental army, having enlisted as a soldier in Capt. Stephen Hall's company, of Col. Swift's Seventh Connecticut Line, June 8, 1777. With this regiment he engaged at the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, wintered at Valley Forge, and was present also at Monmouth, June, 1778. After that until his term of service expired, June 8, 1780, he was with the army on the Hudson. He appears also to have served in 1776, as he is said to have taken part in the battle of White Plains, in October of that year. Entering college after the war, he graduated in 1786, studied for the ministry, and devoted most of his life to missionary work in New York. He died at Sodus, N. Y., March 20, 1840, aged eighty-three.<sup>1</sup>

*Class of 1788.*

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DANIEL WALDO,

*Soldier, Connecticut Service.*

Rev. Daniel Waldo, at the time of his death the oldest graduate of the college, was born at Windham, Conn., September 10, 1762. In 1778, before entering college, he was drafted for a month's service at New London, and subsequently enlisted in State levies for eight months. He was taken prisoner near New York and

<sup>1</sup> Hon. Stanley Griswold, of this class, is mentioned as having been a lieutenant in his father's company before he entered college.

confined in the Sugar House, where he suffered greatly. Studying for the ministry, he was settled at West Suffield for eighteen years after 1792, and for shorter periods elsewhere. He lived to an advanced age. A noteworthy event of his life was his appointment as Chaplain of Congress in 1856, and again in 1857, when he was ninety-four and ninety-five years old. "His faculties were unimpaired throughout his long life, and his last sermon was preached after he entered on his one hundred and second year." He died at Syracuse, N. Y., July 30, 1864.

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SUMMARY.

Total number of graduates included in "Honor-Roll," with biographical notices . . . . .	196
Number mentioned incidentally or in notes, of whose record no details have been found, but who, without much doubt, rendered service of some kind . . . . .	38
Total . . . . .	234

*Addenda.*

Rev. Benjamin Pomeroy, p. 182, was Chaplain of Col. Wyllys' Third Connecticut Line from January 1, 1777, to July 1, 1778.

Capt. Nathaniel Webb, p. 211, states in a memorial that he served through the year 1776, before joining the Continental Line.

Joseph B. Wadsworth, p. 250, was full Surgeon of Col. Sherburne's "additional" Continental Regiment, raised partly in Connecticut, from Sept. 1, 1777, to Jan. 1, 1781.

Dr. Isaac Knight, p. 252, was one of the Guilford volunteers who started towards Boston on the Lexington alarm, April 19, 1775.

Rev. Benjamin Boardman, p. 213, appears as Chaplain of Capt. Comfort Sage's "Troop of Horse" from Middletown, in the Lexington alarm.

Capt. William Coit, p. 226, was Captain of one of the New London companies in the Lexington alarm.

Rev. Elisha Atkins, class of 1773, is stated to have served as Chaplain ; pastor at N. Killingly.

Rev. Samuel Austin, class of 1783, is mentioned as having rendered some service during the Revolution.

*Commissions, Dates, etc.*

Giles Russell, pp. 201 and 202, was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fourth Connecticut, Col. Durkee, not the Eighth, before becoming Colonel of the latter.

The commissions of Eben. Huntington, p. 308, as Lieutenant-Colonel and of John P. Wyllys, p. 298, as Major, were finally made to date from October 10, 1778, instead of 1780.

Discrepancies will doubtless be found between the dates of a few of the appointments and commissions given in the biographical sketches and the dates as given in some official rolls and papers. In certain cases the dates of officers' commissions were changed, and in one case we have three dates for the same commission. This was due to conflicting claims, and in the above honor-roll the last or most authoritative date has been followed.





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